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COURTESY PHOTO

Students from Sunday Night Environmental Group (SNEG) and the Student Government Association (SGA) Environmental Council held a series of events to promote awareness for Energy2028 in the week preceding the vote.

COLLEGE WILL FINALLY DIVEST

By SABINE POUX
and JAMES FINN
News Editors

The Middlebury Board of Trustees unanimously voted to divest at their January meeting, the culmination of a more than six-year effort by student-activists to rid the institution's endowment of investments in fossil fuels.

Divestment is one of four components of the institution's new 10-year Energy2028 plan, which also includes a framework for committing to 100 percent renewable energy, reducing energy consumption on campus by 25 percent and expanding environmental education initiatives. President Laurie L. Patton publicly announced the plan Tues. Jan. 29 before an energized crowd in Wilson Hall.

"I feel like everything I've learned in all of my classes at Middlebury has led up to this moment," said Alec Fleischer '20.5. Fleischer is a member of the student-run Sunday Night Environmental Group (SNEG) and

works with Divest Middlebury, an SNEG campaign formed in 2012.

"This process has taught me how to be an activist, how to push this institution, and how to create sound environmental policy," he said. "I'm glad to see this institution implementing the lessons it's teaching its students."

Energy2028, Patton said, is a natural progression in the college's long history of environmental leadership, dating back to the founding of the nation's first Environmental Studies program in 1965. The announcement makes Middlebury one of the most prominent institutions to pledge full divestment from fossil fuels, and marks a new chapter in its mission to combat climate change.

The decision does not come without risk, with trustees acknowledging that divestment may pose a small cost to the endowment over time. But the potential loss was a significant part of the trustees' debate, and Patton described their ultimate decision as

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MIDDLEBURY MEMES PAGE PARTNERS WITH ARCHIVES

By JAMES FINN
News Editor

Davis Family Library's Special Collections archive is about to get a whole lot crunchier. Beginning this semester, Special Collections will be saving the contents of a favorite student Facebook meme group, Middlebury Memes for Crunchy Teens, to its catalog of digital student life artifacts.

The Facebook group, which was founded two years ago by Katie Corrigan '19, features memes created and shared by students that poke fun at administrative decisions, joke about dining hall preferences and otherwise reflect on quirks of campus life. Special Collections will begin to "sweep" memes posted to the group once or twice per semester, according to Digital Projects & Archives Librarian Patrick Wallace, and memes will become available in the archive five years after they are collected.

Crunchy Teens came to Special Collections' attention after a digital archivist at Williams College told Wallace about a meme group there. Preserving artifacts that document trends in student life is one of the cornerstones of Special Collections' work, according to Wallace, and internet memes — captioned photos of TV characters, distracted boyfriends, grumpy cats and other recognizable personalities — have become a staple of online expression for young people at Middlebury and beyond. Thus, it seemed an obvious step to add Crunchy Teens' memes to the archive.

"The Internet meme is a new

type of information container with rules and implications I am not sure we, as a society or as scholars, have fully sorted out," Wallace wrote in an email to The Campus. "I could be wrong, but I suspect that future scholars will be far more interested in how, some time in the 2010s, people across the world shared, criticized, and affirmed their ideas by captioning pictures of cats or Simpsons characters than we might presume. If so, Middlebury Memes could be an invaluable resource for students' and faculty in the 22nd Century."

To collect and catalog memes posted to the group Special Collections will use a service called Archive-It, a software run by the Internet Archive that "crawls" the site and captures the page as it loads, according to Wallace. The software will only capture content visible to normal internet users looking at the page in a browser, and is almost entirely automated. Wallace said he will conduct periodic check-ups on Archive-It's progress in preserving the site.

PRIVACY CONCERNS

When Special Collections approached current group administrator Torre Davy '21 about archiving the group's contents, privacy concerns emerged as a priority both for the student group administrators and Special Collections staff alike.

"I had concerns about anonymity and how quickly posts were going to be archived, because I do have to remove a fair number of posts that

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Nobel Winner Murad Sheds Light on Yazidi Genocide in Talk

By CALI KAPP
News Editor

When Nadia Murad was taken captive as a sex slave by ISIS in August 2014, she was 19 years old — the same age as many of the students who packed Wilson Hall to hear her speak on Tuesday night. Today, at age 26, Murad is using the atrocities she and her community faced to fuel a life of activism. Her talk, "Pursuing Peace and Justice: A Conversation with Nadia Murad," explored her story as an activist and captive of ISIS and her recognition as a recipient of the Nobel Peace Prize, which she was awarded last fall. Murad became both the first Iraqi and Yazidi to receive the prize.

The talk Murad gave on Tuesday was originally scheduled for Oct. 5, but Murad had to cancel her visit last minute because she was awarded the Nobel Prize on that day. Murad and her co-winner Denis Mukwege received the prize "for their efforts to end the use of sexual violence as a weapon of war and armed conflict."

Murad's apology for the cancellation at the beginning of her talk on Tuesday was met with laughs from the audience.

The talk was introduced by Vice President for Academic Development and Professor of American Studies Tim Spears and facilitated by Associate Professor of History Febe Armanios. Murad was joined on stage by her fiancé and translator Abid Shamdeen.

Murad opened her talk by describing her background as a member of the Yazidi, a little-known ethno-religious minority group. The Yazidi only number around 500,000 to 700,000, and most of them live in Iraq. The region



MICHAEL BORENSTEIN/THE MIDDLEBURY CAMPUS

Nadia Murad, the co-winner of last year's Nobel Peace Prize, onstage at Wilson Hall on Tuesday, Feb. 12. Murad founded Nadia's Initiative in 2016 to combat sexual violence and advocate for victims.

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OFFICE OF COMMUNICATIONS

Thibault Lannoy '20 spent the summer of 2018 as an intern at The Knoll. He died at his home last month.

Thibault Lannoy '20 Dies at 21 Years Old

Thibault Lannoy, a member of the class of 2020 and resident of Atwater Commons, died on Jan. 31 at his parents' home in Hong Kong. He was 21.

Prior to his time at Middlebury, Thibault attended the French International School of Hong Kong and the Berkshire School in Sheffield, Mass. He was a member of the varsity soccer teams at both schools and a delegate at the Model United Nations in Singapore in 2014.

At Middlebury, Lannoy majored in physics, studied Chinese and was an event coordinator at the Mittelman Observatory in McCardell Bicentennial Hall. In the summer of 2018, he worked as an intern at The Knoll. That fall, he became a member of Tavern Social House.

In an email, sent Feb. 1, President Laurie L. Patton highlighted the college's availability as a resource for students affected by the news.

"Our residential life team, coun-

seling staff, and chaplains at the Scott Center stand by ready to help any community member who would like support at this difficult time," she said. "Please do take care and stay connected with each other. Feel free to reach out to any of us."

Messages sent out by various commons, including Lannoy's own Atwater Commons, similarly emphasized the importance of turning to communities to heal.

Lannoy is survived by his father, mother and older sister. His family will hold a funeral in France, which will coincide with a memorial service at the college on or around the same day.

In an upcoming issue, The Campus will publish a full-page article about Thibault featuring stories and photographs about his life and his time at Middlebury. If you would like to contribute to the piece, please email campus@middlebury.edu.

NEWS



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Record Number of Applicants Seek Admission to Class of 2023

By GIGI HOGAN
Contributing Writer

Middlebury received a record number of applications during the 2018-2019 admissions cycle, with 9,750 students vying for a spot in the Class of 2023. The applicant pool increased by 5.6 percent compared to last year's 9,230. With an increase of 13.9 percent, the number of applicants who identify as students of color also reached a new high.

Over the past 10 years, Middlebury's applicant rates have increased by about 34 percent, according to Dean of Admissions Greg Buckles. Within that same 10 years, the college has seen a 99 percent increase in students of color, and a 75 percent increase in international students.

"Using an incremental, thoughtful, and responsible approach, we want to grow the pool to reach any potential candidate for whom a Middlebury education might be a good fit," Buckles said.

In a news release, Director of Admissions Nicole Curvin attributed this year's growth in part to recruitment by Middlebury's staff in the South and the West, where growth in applicants was particularly strong. Applicants rose by 16 percent in the South, and 10 percent in the West.

The applicants hail from across the country, with most admitted students coming from New York. Other pipeline states include California, Massachusetts, Connecticut, New Jersey, and Illinois.

International applicants were up 10 percent this year. The six countries with the most applicants were led by China, with 628, followed by Pakistan, India, South Korea, Vietnam and Ken-

ya.

Other NESCAC schools, such as Bowdoin, also saw an uptick in applications. Bowdoin received a total of 9,300 applications this year, an increase over its record of 9,081 for the Class of 2022.

For the first binding early decision round, Middlebury said it admitted 297 of the 654 applicants this December. A quarter of early admits were students of color. The second round of early applicants and regular decision applicants will receive their decisions in mid-February and March 23, respectively.

The college is looking to continue the development of a diverse and balanced community in the Class of 2023.

"We are trying to pay more attention to students who may fall outside what some may consider traditional norms or mainstream types of Middlebury profiles," Buckles said.

Looking to the future, Buckles believes the college will focus on reaching international applicants, as well as tackling affordability.

"Middlebury will want to continue to be accessible to anyone who is qualified and admitted regardless of ability to pay," said Buckles, who is leaving the college at the end of the academic year to take a job at the Lawrenceville School in New Jersey.

The admissions team is busy reviewing applications for next year's class, which they expect to total between 610 and 630 students in the fall and another 100 to 110 in February. The projected class size of about 700 is consistent with previous years. Last year's overall acceptance rate was 18.4 percent, down from 19.7 percent the year before.



MICHAEL BORENSTEIN/THE MIDDLEBURY CAMPUS

Nadia Murad was accompanied by her fiancé and translator, Abid Shamdeen, during her talk at Wilson Hall on Feb. 12.

Murad Argues for Activism

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of Sinjar in northwestern Iraq is the Yazidis' home, and Murad's home village of Kocho is located in this region.

Kocho was home to around 1,700 people, and most families were dependent on farming and cattle. The youngest of 11 children, Murad was the only one of her siblings to attend school, as they could only afford for one child to go. "Our life was simple," she said.

But by June of 2014, ISIS had begun to attack many villages around Sinjar. Members of other religious minorities, such as Christians, were given the option to stay in their homes and pay a fee or flee the territory. When ISIS entered Sinjar on Aug. 3, the Yazidi were not given such options.

"They had a specific plan of eradicating Yazidis from that region," Murad said. "A specific plan of executing men mostly and enslaving women and children."

The United Nations has classified ISIS atrocities against the Yazidis as acts of genocide. Six of Murad's eight brothers were killed in the attack along with her mother and many nieces and nephews.

While much of the Sinjar region has been liberated from ISIS, political competition, reflecting regional conflicts, along with a lack of resources and reconstruction has made the Yazidi homeland difficult to return to, Murad said. Rather than return home, many Yazidi remain in refugee camps around the Middle East.

"It's not a stable environment for Yazidis to go back to," Murad said.

Today, over 3,000 Yazidi women and children remain in captivity in ISIS territory in Syria. Many are missing including Murad's sister-in-law, who disappeared two years ago.

Many Yazidis are displaced, including about 350,000 who are living in camps in Northern Iraq along with more living in refugee camps in Greece and Turkey. About 65,000 Yazidi have returned home, Murad said, but those who did face daunting challenges, including poor health and lack of electricity.

While Yazidis have received some support from governments in Canada, Australia, France and Germany, Murad has called on regional governments, such as Turkey, for help.

Last year, Murad returned to Iraq and met with many local leaders. They discussed why the Yazidi people remained unprotected by the government even after the genocide and talked about ways in which the government could help support the Yazidis so they can start rebuilding Sinjar. Murad also helped obtain approval from the Iraqi government to build a genocide museum in Sinjar.

During her visit, Murad returned to

Kocho, where she attended a religious celebration meant to honor the dead. This was the first time they celebrated the holiday since the genocide.

"I wanted to do this as a restart of our culture and traditions and to help people start doing the same thing we used to do," she said.

In 2016, Murad founded Nadia's Initiative, a nonprofit organization working to address issues of sexual violence, advocate for victims and aid communities affected by crisis. In the talk, Murad discussed the difficulties of using her personal tragedies to construct a life of activism.

"For me as a woman, as a survivor, someone who has lost family members and been through this trauma it was especially difficult for a woman from the Middle East, from that region, to break taboos and speak about these stories," she said. "But I had no other choice but to do it."

Murad explained how she hopes that the Nobel Peace Prize will help further her goals.

"We are hoping to use this recognition to put more light on these communities that are facing persecution and genocide and prevent these acts to take place in the future," she said, stressing the importance of recognizing the genocide in real terms to ensure against the extinction of the Yazidi community.

Murad recognized the possibility that the Yazidis will leave their ancestral homeland in order to seek better and safer lives somewhere else. But, even when Yazidis have made it to different places in Europe, she said, many still face discrimination. Their homes are raided by police looking to deport them, and many have been denied asylum.

She described what it has been like to live away from her home for the past few years. In addition to drastic cultural and day to day differences, she discussed the sad truth that her perpetrators were able to stay in her homeland while she had to flee.

Murad finished her talk with a message for young people, and Middlebury students in particular.

"You as students here are lucky to have the chance to come here and study and choose your own path," she said, emphasizing that not all young people have these opportunities.

Murad also highlighted that governments and weapons can't solve all these problems and that she counts on young people to accomplish her goals.

Following the talk Nora Peachin '21 reflected on the importance of having Murad speak at Middlebury.

"The takeaway for me is there really is no excuse not to be doing activism work and speaking out and fighting for justice and peace," Peachin said.

Middlebury Announces Energy2028 Plan

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the most responsible choice the board could make.

"This plan is true to Middlebury's culture and values," Patton said. "It acknowledges that we do not have all the solutions at our disposal at this moment to meet these goals, but it commits us to make every effort to do so. I could not be prouder or more inspired by our institution than I am today."

DIVESTMENT'S DEEP ROOTS

As it stands, the college's endowment is about \$1.056 billion, four percent of which is comprised of fossil fuel-related investments. According to the terms of Energy2028, Middlebury will work with Investure, the private company responsible for overseeing the institution's endowment, to phase out direct investments in oil and gas by 25 percent in five years and 50 percent in eight years, with full elimination of all fossil fuel investments in 15 years or sooner.

The college will also refrain from investing any new dollars in oil and gas-related funds beginning in mid-2019, opting instead to make sustainable investments when possible.

The plan's definition of fossil fuel companies is broader than most, Patton said, intentionally including many businesses tied to the fossil fuel industry.

The fossil fuel divestment movement has deep roots at Middlebury, having been propelled in part by a viral 2012 article in Rolling Stone written by Scholar in Residence Bill McKibben. McKibben's environmental activism organization 350.org was founded by former Middlebury students, and has assisted many of the divestment campaigns now active on college campuses.

In the last two years especially, student groups, such as Divest Middlebury, SNEG and the Student Government Association (SGA) Environmental Affairs Committee, in addition to alumni, staff and faculty members, have lobbied intensely for divestment.

Last April, the SGA held a student-wide referendum on divestment in which 79.57 percent of respondents voted in favor. This past fall, the faculty voted by an even wider margin — 92 percent — in favor of divestment. In December, the SGA Environmental Council also voted unanimously in support of divestment.

More recently, in the days leading up to the board's vote, SNEG and the SGA held a week-long Divest Fest, featuring panels, information sessions and other events focused on engaging the college community in Energy 2028. After Tuesday's announcement, they hosted a question and answer session on Facebook Live.

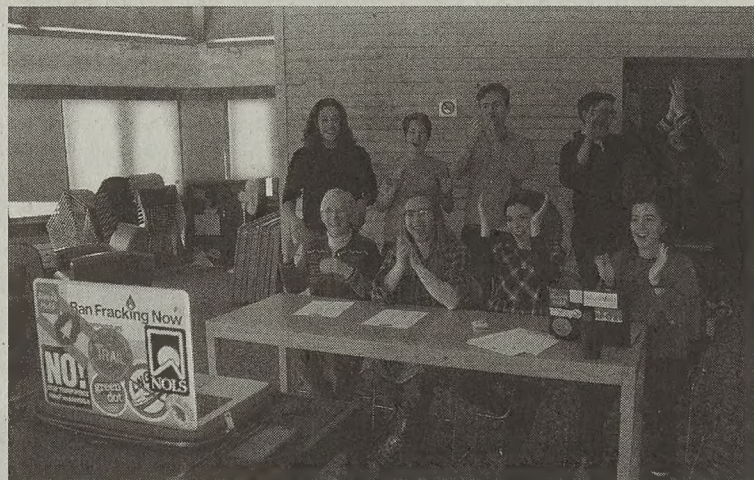
"Today is the most proud I have ever been to go to this school," said Cora Kircher '20, a leading member of Divest Middlebury and SNEG. "I'm so proud to be going to a school that's leading the way into sustainability and fighting for climate justice in front of a really terrifying crisis."

Divestment had not always seemed to be an attainable goal. In 2013, the Board of Trustees and then-President Ron Liebowitz rejected divestment, attributing the decision to uncertainties about alternative investment opportunities. Similarly, in the first years of Patton's presidency, student-activists were still told repeatedly that divestment was not on the table. But, yesterday, years of pressure and negotiations proved doubters of the effort wrong.

"Two years ago, we were told that divestment was not a question worth pursuing," said Leif Taranta '20, another student organizer of Divest Middlebury and a co-director of the SGA Environmental Affairs Committee. "One year ago, we heard that Middlebury would never take this step. Yet this past weekend we sat in the same board room where we have received years of no's, with a unanimous yes."

Trustee Caroline McBride '75, who serves as the board's chair of resources, began talking with students about divestment when the issue first came to the table in 2012, and worked with the board's chair of investments William Truscott '83 until the night before the vote to ensure that trustees were educated on the content of the proposal.

"I think the reason it was unanimous was because even if people were not in 100 percent agreement with all of it, they could see how the plan fit together as a whole because it's holis-



VAN BARTH/THE MIDDLEBURY CAMPUS

Members of Divest Middlebury celebrate the news on Facebook Live.

tic," she said, adding that, two years after achieving carbon neutrality, this is the ideal time for the college to divest.

Though over a thousand institutions around the world have pledged to divest their funds from fossil fuels, it remains relatively rare in higher education. Trustees at Swarthmore College, where student activists helped launch the divestment movement in 2010, voted against divestment last June, despite eight years of growing community support. In total, only 150 college campuses worldwide have committed to fossil fuel divestment. Less than a third of those campuses are in the U.S., according to EcoWatch.com.

McKibben told The Campus that Middlebury's move is special in part because it could now serve as an example for peer schools that have until now rejected plans to divest.

"Middlebury is one of the very first rich schools of the Northeast to join in," he said. "The fact that it has a board closely tied to Wall Street is significant."

"It's a good sign that the smart money has begun to sense what the future holds," he said.

BEYOND DIVESTMENT

The plan's three other pillars are similarly ambitious. First, its commitment to renewable energy outlines a transition to 100 percent renewable energy sources on the core campus by 2028, and will eradicate use of natural gas as a supplemental energy source at the campus biomass-gasification plant. It also seeks to make investments in solar and potentially in hydropower, and will work to make these investments in Vermont when possible.

The college also plans to reduce energy consumption 25 percent by 2028, which will involve making changes to campus infrastructure as well as augmenting energy-use monitoring. The college may also introduce an internal carbon tax on activities that have a high carbon footprint, and would use the revenue from the tax to fund conservation projects. Interns at the Sustainability Solutions Lab, a new program through the Office of Sustainability Integration, will help the college meet both these and its renewable energy targets.

Energy2028's fourth tenet highlights the importance of education in sustaining and successfully implementing the plan. Patton connected the decision to divest with the changes made to the college's mission statement last year, which emphasized the role of immersive learning to help students address global issues.

"The board's endorsement follows its recent statement that climate change is one of the most profound changes facing our world, and is therefore an educational and institutional priority of the highest order," she said. "I believe that Energy2028 will fulfill Middlebury's educational mission at its deepest level. Through its programs and projects, students will learn how to engage their communities, think consequentially, and act creatively at this crucial time for our environment."

Dan Brayton, director of the Environmental Studies Program and a professor of English and American Literatures, said he hopes the plan will open new doors in the realm of "community education," an approach that has long been a part of the program's curriculum.

"This opens new horizons for us for rethinking the circumference of our community," Brayton said. "What is community? Is it outside the college? Is it on the edges of the college? Or is it the way the college interacts with the town, the Champlain Valley,

the state?"

LOOKING AHEAD TO A MORE SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

With committed support from all fronts, the college has a promising but long road ahead as it begins implementing the four pillars of Energy2028. The plan is the result of monthslong collaboration between students, faculty, staff, trustees and administrators, and for the plan to succeed, Patton and others emphasized that the process will need to be collaborative.

"This is a lofty, lofty goal that we have set out for us," said the Treasurer, David Provost, to whom Patton attributed much of the plan's success. "And similar to how we created it, we won't reach this success unless everyone's involved."

In the following months and years, members of SNEG will occupy a large role in guaranteeing the success of Energy2028, and will make sure the college stays on track with its proposed plans.

"As students of this institution, we have a right and a responsibility to hold our college to the highest standards and demand it takes the right steps forward towards climate justice," said SNEG member and Divest Middlebury organizer Zoe Grodsky '20.5. "Middlebury has set out on the right path, but the work of the students in striving towards a just future is not over."

The group will also be working on many future campaigns both on and beyond campus, and other students will be able to engage in educational programs and internships focused on the plan's main commitments.

Trustees will receive routine updates on the plan's progress, and the college will continuously post updates on the plan's progress on its sustainability website.

Patton hopes the college will meet its goals even faster than anticipated.

"We understand that addressing climate change and action about climate change, that time is of the essence," Patton said. "And we want to remind you that this is a floor, and not a ceiling, and we will make every effort to get there quicker."

While administrators and students are optimistic that the decision will benefit the endowment in the long term, Charles Skorina MHS '73, a director of a firm that recruits for large institutional money managers, said the potential effects of divestment on the college's endowment are currently unknown.

Skorina said that is in part because divestment is a fairly new phenomenon and the success of Middlebury's investments will ultimately depend on fluctuations in the market over the next 10 years. He said there is stability in oil and gas investments that cannot yet be found in sustainable investments, which are newer and less predictable.

"The negatives are you could earn a little less money," Skorina said. "It could reduce the earnings from the portfolio, because it means you are divesting from an area which still generates a lot of money. That's not to say it will, though."

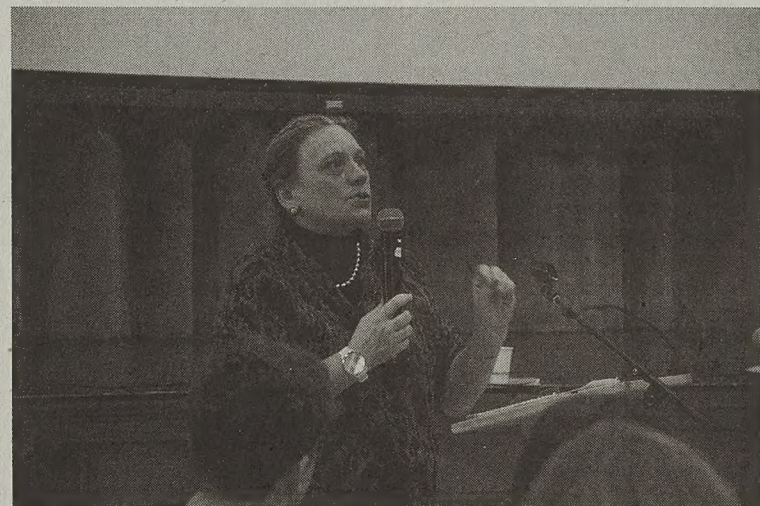
Truscott noted that the board took this cost into account when weighing its fiduciary responsibilities against its responsibilities to the environment.

"There may be some small cost to the endowment over time as we preclude investment in a sector of the economy," he said. "This potential cost was a significant part of the board's debate."

Economics Professor Jon Isham similarly indicated uncertainty about the consequences of divestment on the college's endowment, but noted optimism that the shift would not too negatively affect revenues because the college's fuel holdings are not substantial. Isham, who taught a winter term class on global warming in 2005 that helped lead to the creation of SNEG and 350.org, stressed the importance of doing the right thing for the planet rather than seeking a slightly larger endowment return.

Ultimately, Isham said, the plan could end up benefiting the college financially.

"I think you can make the case that our whole package is really going to save us a ton of money, because if you put the four elements together, all of those together create a better Middlebury but are also going to be better for the bottom line," he said. "I think they did a nice job bundling divestment with these three other pillars. This strikes me as a win-win scenario."



SHIRLEY MAO/THE MIDDLEBURY CAMPUS

"I believe that Energy2028 will fulfill Middlebury's educational mission at its deepest level," President Laurie L. Patton said at the Jan. 29 event.

CFA Becomes the MAC, and Students Ask Why

By CALI KAPP
News Editor

After being known for 27 years as the CFA, the Kevin P. Mahaney '84 Center for the Arts is undergoing a name change. College officials have decided to rename the building the Mahaney Arts Center, or the MAC — a change that has provoked confused reactions from students, some of whom insist on continuing to use the building's old name.

The Center's weekly ArtsMail message to the Middlebury community on Sunday, Feb. 3 highlighted the change and outlined the history of the building's name. According to the email, the building opened as the Center for the Arts (CFA) in 1992, but was renamed the Kevin P. Mahaney '84 Center for the Arts (MCA), in 2007. While this acronym was officially used by the college, it was never widely used by students or other members of the college and Middlebury community, who continued to refer to the building as the CFA.

"With this change, we hope to achieve some much-needed clarity about the building's identity, and its programs, too," said Director Liza Sacheli in an interview with The Campus. "We hope that the shorter, catchier name is easier to remember and use."

The decision was made by college administrators, Arts Center staff, the Office of Communications and Marketing and the Office of Advancement. The changes were also approved and supported by Mahaney.

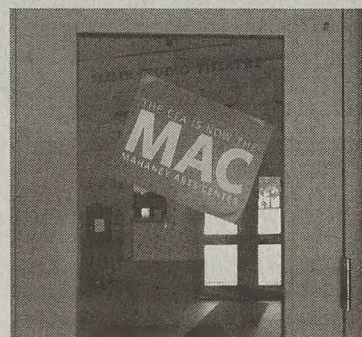
Quickly following the Feb. 3 email, the Facebook group Middlebury Memes for Crunchy Teens erupted with comedic criticism of the acronym change. "CFA 'til I die baby," Christian Chiang '20 titled his post. "BREAKING: New Big Mac Not Going to Stop Students from Being Petty About Meatless Mondays, More At 6," wrote Susan Deutsch '19.5.

Students also reported their discontent with the name change to The Campus.

"The MAC just sounds like an order at McDonald's," said Kaitlynd Collins '19, a Theater major, who felt

strongly about the change and criticized both its purpose and its implications. "There is no clear reason to change the letters in a freaking acronym!" she said in a text message, arguing that the college is trying to change the way students talk.

"Literally, why?" Elizabeth Sawyer '19 said. "How is this going to do good in any way? What are we gaining?"



NICK GARBER/THE MIDDLEBURY CAMPUS
A sign at the entrance to the Arts Center publicized its name change.

Collins speculated that the name change could have been done to provide greater publicity to the building's namesake, a major college donor, though she did not see how changing the acronym would further recognize Mahaney.

"If someone says, 'I'm headed to the MAC,' it's not like Kevin P. Mahaney's face will be projected in a golden light as the letters leave their mouth," she said.

She also pointed out that prompting students to recognize Mahaney in this way could be uncomfortable for some individuals. Last January, Mahaney was accused of covering up the rape of a 20-year-old woman. In March, the charges were dropped. "He potentially covered up a sexual assault and I don't want to acknowledge him in my day-to-day life," Collins said.

Sacheli reported positive reactions from students, faculty and staff regarding the changes, adding that people expressed excitement over the simpler name.

New Master Plan Envisions Future of College Libraries

By GIGI HOGAN
Contributing Writer

The College has begun preparing a master plan for the restoration and improvement of Armstrong Science Library and Davis Family Library. In partnership with New York architectural firm Marble Fairbanks, the master plan will aim to serve the emerging research and study space needs of students and faculty. The architects are expected to return for a final visit in early April to present their draft plan.

During a two day site visit January 14-15, representatives from Marble Fairbanks met with students, staff, and faculty to observe how the library spaces are being used. The need for areas that encourage an inclusive community, spaces for collaboration, and spaces that address experiential learning were among the top remarks.

Middlebury opened the Davis Family Library in 2004, five years after the 1999 opening of the Armstrong Science Library. The Davis Library was built with room for 20 years' projected collection growth to support Middlebury's ever-changing curriculum and research. It reached capacity, however, in just 10 years.

While there are occasionally empty or partially filled shelves, Head of Collection Management Douglas Black said this space needs to remain clear in order to do the necessary re-sifting involved with keeping the collection current.

As digital and collaborative projects have become more prominent in recent years, there have been many requests from students and faculty

for more space.

"We think we can find some room by refining the collection back to where it more accurately serves the curriculum," said Black.

The potential use of compact shelving, off-site storage, and the reduction of physical materials will all be considered in this process. Although the library collections are constantly updated, it is rare that a full review can be conducted to thoroughly eliminate outdated materials. According to Black, the withdrawn materials will be sent to Better World Books, who sells them and returns to the College a portion of the proceeds to use in further developing Middlebury's collection.

Librarians with the help of faculty will be carefully reviewing the collection based on a number of criteria, including usage, whether something is outdated, whether there is a more recent edition in the library, and whether it is available in other forms. Ideally, the project team agrees, changing the size of the libraries' physical collections should go mostly unnoticed in terms of having the resources students and faculty require.

The master plan will provide strategies to align the spaces and the related infrastructure in the library with Middlebury's future needs. Dean of Library Michael Roy said this plan has been in the works since last year.

"We were about to embark on a deaccessioning project as we were running out of space to store our materials, and wanted to link that effort with a broader examination of how well the current space is meeting the needs of our community," Roy said.

Karen Fairbanks, the lead archi-

tect of Marble Fairbanks and parent of a recent Middlebury graduate, believes the master plan will be developed on the foundation of feedback from the Middlebury community.

"All of this input is critical to our understanding Middlebury's future goals and current needs," said Fairbanks.

Since its formation in 1990, Marble Fairbanks has designed many libraries and academic spaces, including projects for Haverford College Library, the Hunter College Library, the Greenpoint (N.Y.) Library and Environmental Education Center, and the New York Public Library.

Although the plan will evolve as the development teams get further in the process, the immediate goal is to plan for the next 20 years. Though much of the focus at this stage has been centered on creating new and innovative spaces, chair of the Library Space Team Brenda Ellis noted that comfort and aesthetics are important as well. To foster the need for quiet spaces, special attention will be given to acoustics to better isolate noisy activities from quiet study areas.

"Students spend a lot of time here, so we want to make sure the library is meeting your needs now and in the future," Ellis said.

The architects will be returning to campus on March 6th and 7th to share what they have learned about the library buildings and discuss findings from their first visit. Students are encouraged to provide feedback in person, or through the online form available at go/librarianspaceplanning. Some of the ideas will be posted in the atrium of the Davis Library as the plan develops.



COURTESY PHOTO

Students look at the prospective master plan for the college libraries at a display in Atwater Dining Hall.

Student-Run Conference Goes Beyond #MeToo

By NICOLE POLLACK
Staff Writer

The sixth annual student-organized global affairs conference, "Beyond #MeToo: Global Responses to Sexual Violence in an Age of Reckoning," was held between Jan. 22 and Jan. 24. The conference, organized by Grace Vedock '20 and Taite Shomo '20.5, began with an Atwater dinner, followed by a series of lectures and screenings over the next two days.

"Beyond #MeToo" emphasized the varied global perception of sexual violence, looking at the #MeToo movement through an international lens in an effort to spark deeper discussion among Middlebury students, particularly those who do not ordinarily take an active stance on such issues. The organizers cited a talk last spring on the global implications of #MeToo by Sujata Moorti, Professor of Gender, Sexuality, and Feminist Studies, as their inspiration for the conference.

Vedock and Shomo both saw the conference as a success, describing engaged students and great faculty at every event. The only letdown, Shomo said, was attendance. "I think we both wish that more people had shown up to the events," she said.

Turnout ranged from an estimated 50-60 people at the Atwater dinner to significantly fewer at most of the screenings and lectures.

"I think a lot of people are really reluctant to engage in these conversations," Vedock said. "It's something that, as a society, it's gained a lot of traction, media attention, things like that, but when it comes to actually showing up and having the hard conversations and engaging, it's not something that everyone can do — for various reasons, we understand that, of course — but it's hard to get people engaged. It's really, really hard."

"If I could title this article," Vedock said later, "it would be, 'Show Up.'"

The first screening, shown in Axinn immediately after the Atwater dinner, was Roll Red Roll, a documentary detailing the complicated aftermath of the assault of a teenage girl by high school football players. The film exposed the extent to which rape culture is ingrained in the United States through the story of one small Ohio town.

The following night, UN Sex Abuse Scandal, which features personal accounts by survivors of sexual assault at the hands of United Nations Peacekeepers, was also shown in Axinn. The Frontline documentary focused on conflict zones in Central Africa as survivors, witnesses and officials described an issue that is still very much unresolved.

Associate Professor of Political

Science Sarah Stroup led a discussion immediately after the screening, during which most attendees expressed shock about their own lack of awareness about such a major international issue and questioned why more was not being done.

"When I asked, 'What else you would want to know to understand this story,' many of the students reported interest in more insight into how the UN and its peacekeeping missions work," Stroup said. "Both Professor Amy Yuen and I regularly discuss those topics in our upper level political science classes."

Other invited lecturers broadened the scope of the conference. Janet Johnson, a professor of political science at Brooklyn College, gave a talk titled "#IamNotAfraidtoSay but not #MeToo: Russian Women's Ambivalence in Claiming Sexual Autonomy." Another lecture by Tina Escaja, Director of Gender, Sexuality, and Women's Studies at the University of Vermont, was titled "#Cuéntalo: Black Moon/Luna morada and the #MeToo movement en español," and focused on the interpretation and effects of the #MeToo movement in particular regions. Vedock described Escaja's talk, which focused on art and poetry as a form of resistance, and the speaker's poetry reading, as "breathtaking."

The final speaker was Rangita de Silva de Alwis, Associate Dean for International Programs at the University of Pennsylvania Law School, who gave a talk called "More Than a Public Reckoning: The Need for Laws." De Alwis is recognized worldwide for her expertise on women's rights. She started the Global Women's Leadership Project in 2017 to support UNESCO and UN women's work on peace and justice and women's human rights.

The conference concluded with a panel moderated by Karin Hanta, director of Chellis House Feminist Resource Center, called "The Age of Reckoning at Middlebury College," which explored next steps regarding sexual violence at Middlebury.

"At the final discussion about the future of Middlebury, one thing that we talked about a lot with the people who were there was wanting to implement more preventative strategies, like teaching about consent, and teaching about healthy relationships, rather than reactive things, like Green Dot, or like the sexual assault posters in the bathrooms," Shomo said.

"In an ideal world, we wouldn't have to put on this event," Vedock said, stressing the need to approach sexual assault as a cultural issue.

"We had a great discussion at the end that left it on — maybe not a positive note — but a hopeful one," she said.

Memes to be Preserved in Perpetuity

Continued from Page 1

don't follow the group's rules," Davy said. "But I really liked that they were so willing to meet with us and discuss these apprehensions and they really listened to them."

Documenting student voices in ways that do not punish dissent or criticism of the administration is a process that Special Collections is familiar with, though, and Wallace was focused on making it a priority in beginning the process of cataloging Crunchy Teens.

"I think there is a knee-jerk reaction that includes this notion of Special Collections as a 'Big Brother' figure watching what students do so we can report it to Old Chapel or something," Wallace said. "Nothing could be further from the truth. We are focused on preserving student voices with as much of their original context as possible in part because it provides a measure of accountability to administration. If criticisms are being leveled against college administration in Middlebury Memes and that goes into our collection, those criticisms become much harder to sweep under the rug."

Wallace said that Special Collections also takes privacy concerns into account when planning out the "harvesting" process, as he calls it. The process is automated and will occur infrequently, so people have plenty of time to delete "regrettable"

posts. Additionally, access to the material collected from the page will be closed until five years after the time of collection, meaning that any material that could potentially reflect poorly on a student would not be visible outside of the Facebook group until that time.

EARLY DAYS, GROWING SUCCESS

Corrigan founded Middlebury Memes for Crunchy Teens in February 2017 in the weeks following the Charles Murray protest, when Corrigan began to feel that political discourse among students had become stilted. Meme groups at other colleges had become popular in recent years, and a visit to a friend at the University of Pennsylvania, where students posted homemade memes in the group "Official Unofficial Penn Squirrel Catching Club," made Corrigan think that a similar group might benefit Middlebury students looking to talk about contentious issues on campus with a lighthearted bent.

"My friend at UPenn showed me their facebook meme group where students critique their administration, fellow students, and bonded over the funny little things about living in an institution that controls a whole bunch of your life," Corrigan said. "I was put out that Midd didn't have one until I realized it was very, very easy for me to make one."

The group took off the following

semester while Corrigan was studying abroad. Now, it has more than 2,100 members and usually features several student posts per day. The group's most popular memes include takes on walking across muddy Battell Beach in the fall, the add/drop process, divestment, Feb culture, changes to the college bookstore, the blender in Crossroads Café and the recent renaming of the building now officially known as the MAC.

"I feel like this space is unique in its ability to facilitate discussion, because everything is covered with a layer of satire, no matter how thin," said Torre Davy '21, one of the group's current administrators. "It, to me, feels like a space where people aren't really worried to voice their opinions and the democracy of Facebook reactions shows agreement or disagreement."

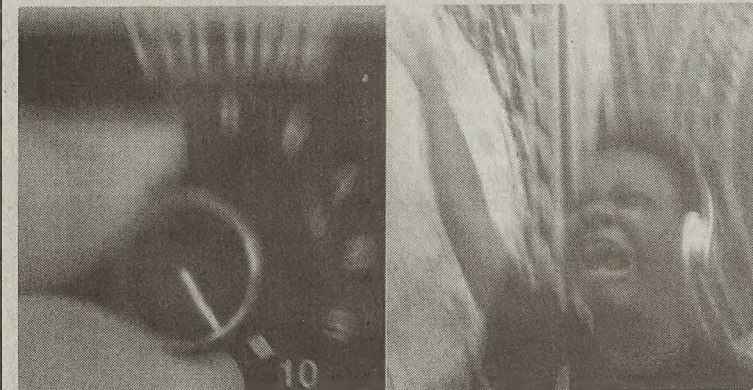
When she heard that Special Collections was interested in documenting memes posted to her group, all Corrigan could do was laugh.

"I received the email during a dance rehearsal and honestly just laughed," Corrigan said. "I am often overcome with how ridiculous it is that the meme page is probably my biggest contribution to the college during my time here, and now it's being recognized by an official body."

Ultimately, Corrigan was appreciative that Special Collections reached out, and was eager to help.

"When you think about it, it's this little capsule of what we cared about from tiny moments in time," Corrigan said of the group. "Given how quickly internet platforms rise and fall, I thought it'd be nice to preserve it so that maybe someday, some Midd kid 60 years from now writing a paper on meme culture of the 2010s would be able to use it and learn something about what it was like to be us."

Middlebury Memes for Crunchy Teens is one of many student media outlets that Special Collections archives with the goal of preserving student voices, and students who wish to submit a publication, Facebook page or other online media outlet to Special Collections can do so by visiting go/submiturl.



Olivia Christie '19 posted this meme to the Crunchy Teens group in September, referencing the infamously loud smoothie blenders at Crossroads Café.

Plastic Bag Ban Advances With Community Support

By TAYLOR PHILLIPS
Online Editor

Middlebury residents will vote on whether to enact legislation that would ban plastic bags within the community on March 5. A Town Hall meeting will take place the night before the vote, giving residents, business owners and members of the Selectboard a chance to discuss the proposed ban and its possible implications before making their decision.

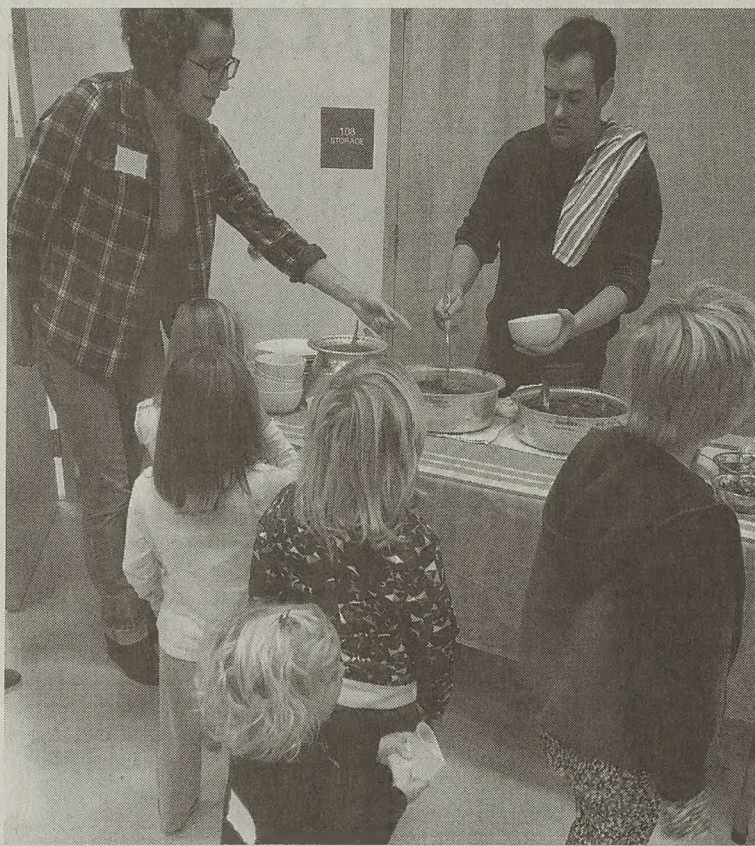
Middlebury resident Amy McAninch and Middlebury College student Amelia Miller '20 are spearheading the movement to ban plastic bags. Prompted by the news of other towns that have approved plastic bag bans, McAninch said she "felt really strongly that we could do this." Since then, they have held several meetings throughout town to hear concerns, questions and suggestions about the bag ban.

On Feb. 12, two of these meetings were held at the Residence at Otter Creek, an Independent and Assisted Living Facility in Middlebury and the Ilsley Public Library. The meetings have been happening in town for months now, and McAninch and Miller's hard work has paid off: the signatures on their petition were verified by the Town Clerk in January, which means the proposal can be voted upon in the Town Meeting. Should the motion go through, the Selectboard will then manage the exact wording and logistics of the program.

The benefits of a ban are clear from a sustainability viewpoint. The Mass Green Plastic Bag Cost Calculator shows that the town of Middlebury, with a population of 8,500, uses about 4,513,500 bags every year. These bags cost retailers \$180,540 each year — a figure that doesn't include the environmental impacts of the plastic production.

As it is now, consumers can choose to use reusable bags or recycled plastic or paper bags. However, those involved in the movement to ban plastic bags are not confident that shoppers will consistently opt for alternatives, continuing generally to use the bags supplied by retailers. The thin composition of these bags poses a problem. They can break, blow into the water, or turn into microplastic particles, thereby contaminating water sources or threatening wildlife.

The Mother Up!: Families Rise Up for Climate Change group, a project of 350Vermont, met in late January to discuss potentially banning plastic bags in Middlebury. The group, run by Ashley Laux of the college's Center for Community Engagement, meets once a month to take action against climate change. The structure of the group mirrors similar groups throughout other Vermont communities, designed to provide a forum for families to be proactive in climate change ac-



Activists and their families have a hot meal while organizing to ban plastic bags in Middlebury.

tion while also balancing their familial responsibilities. Past issues included eco-Sabbath days, where consumers change their patterns of behavior to "try to live lighter on the earth", explained Laux. She feels that the group has helped her learn more about causes she might not have otherwise engaged with as well as making her a more conscientious consumer and environmental activist.

The group meets once a month in the Town Recreation Center, where dinner and childcare are provided by 350Vermont. According to their Facebook page, Mother Up!: Families Rise Up for Climate Action represents "a network of parents across Vermont who are coming together to take organized, empowered action to protect the health and safety of our collective future."

The participants in the Middlebury chapter of the project engage in local action, as highlighted in January's meeting where community members brainstormed the best ways to campaign on behalf of the ban. From letters to the Front Porch Forum and the Addison County Independent to speaking at the Town Hall Meeting next month, parents are prepared to play an active role in the environmental movement in town. They also discussed the possibility of donating reusable bags in order to reduce the worry that getting rid of plastic bags would force people to buy new bags that might be unaffordable for some.

The engagement displayed by the Mother Up!: Families Rise Up for Climate Change is reflected in the community as a whole. McAninch noted that there has been very little

pushback from community members at any of the meetings so far. In fact, she noted that the next step would be to tackle plastic straw usage in town.

Laura Asermily, a member of the Middlebury Selectboard, attended the meeting as well, appearing optimistic about the success of the proposed ban. She explained that last year, 70 percent of surveyed Middlebury residents supported a ban of this nature. However, it could take about a year from the time the town votes on the possible ban to its actual implementation. The Selectboard would need to finalize logistics of getting rid of plastic bags, from grandfathering them out to providing a cheap and sustainable alternative. Those details could take a while, explained Asermily, but they would also create great change for the community.

In the meantime, Mother Up!: Families Rise Up for Climate Action has turned their efforts towards the capital. In February, the group is planning to have their children make Valentines for the Earth to deliver to the state legislature in Montpelier on their Annual Lobby Day in an effort to encourage more eco-friendly laws. Hopefully, their civic-minded dedication will provide dividends as residents cast their ballots on Feb. 5.

Middlebury students can support the ban by not using plastic bags and, whenever possible, patronizing stores who support the bag ban and are committed to building an environmentally sustainable town. Registered Middlebury voters can add their names to the petition by emailing KeepMiddleburyBeautiful@gmail.com.

VT Lawmakers Vote to Protect Abortion Rights

By HATTIE LEFAVOUR
Staff Writer

Almost 50 years since the landmark Supreme Court case *Roe v. Wade* granted the right to abortion, pro-choice Americans continue to be on the offensive. The Court's new conservative majority has caused many to worry that its stance on abortion will swing to the pro-life right, and promises from President Trump to restrict abortion rights have prompted Vermont lawmakers' determination to defend the right to choose.

In a nod to the anniversary of *Roe v. Wade* on Jan. 22, Vermont Representatives Ann Pugh and Maxine Grad introduced bill H.57 to the Vermont Statehouse floor, a bill that would establish the fundamental right to abortion for every Vermont individual under any circumstances. Its introduction adds Vermont to a growing list of states rushing to safeguard the right to abortion, and its approximately 90 bipartisan co-sponsors make it likely to exceed the 76 votes needed to pass.

The bill was drafted in conjunction with Planned Parenthood and may be accompanied by a parallel amendment to the Vermont state Constitution in the future. However, because an amendment's passage through the House and Senate is a much more arduous process, the House is focused on pushing H.57 through first.

According to VTDigger, Vermont House Speaker Mitzi Johnson addressed the Statehouse in support of the bill shortly after its introduction, telling her colleagues, "We need a Vermont where every Vermonter should feel free to make their personal decisions about their sexual and reproductive health care."

That's not to say that Vermonters don't already enjoy these rights. The bill will not actively change anything about the state's current abortion policy, which is famously liberal. This has left some wondering why the bill is necessary and whether it is worth the Vermont legislature's time in the first place.

Tim Ashe, President Pro Tempore of the Vermont Senate, spoke to The Campus about the two reasons why he thinks the legislation is critical anyway. He expressed concern for the Supreme Court's newly precarious position on abortion.

"Taking action in anticipation of [federal restrictions] will ensure that reproductive rights are not diminished the moment the Supreme Court rules," Ashe continued. "Legal rights are always stronger and less ambiguous when put in statute rather than left to the vagaries of court cases."

Vermont has no laws that fully ensure reproductive choice, and Ashe referenced cases such as the 1989 Vermont Supreme Court decision of *State v. Oliver*, which set a precedent that greatly restricted the rights of a fetus in the state, but which could also be easily modified since it is not a law. Bill H.57 originally included a clause reinforcing this decision and thereby eliminating all independent rights for fertilized eggs, embryos and fetuses, though it has since been removed during revisions.

Vermont is consistently ranked as the least religious state in the U.S. and has a population that overwhelmingly supports the right to choose, according to polls conducted by Gallup and the Pew Research Center. Both such factors contribute to the tremendous support from Vermonters and legislators alike for H.57. But not everyone is so eager to get behind it. H.57's opponents in the House have questioned the bill's necessity and phrasing, and its opponents

**"Taking action ...
will ensure that reproductive rights
are not diminished
the moment the
Supreme Court
rules."**

on the streets have vehemently protested its sweeping content.

On Jan. 26, the Vermont Right to Life, an organization led by Executive Director Mary Beerworth, held a procession of several hundred people from St. Augustine's Church to the Vermont State Capitol in protest of the bill, during which the group prayed and demonstrated for restrictions. H.57 has also gained national attention from right-leaning news outlets including Fox News, The National Review and The Daily Caller, the latter of which ran the headline, "If You Think Virginia's Infanticide Bill is Crazy, Wait Till You Get a Look at What Vermont is Pushing."

These criticisms stem from the broad nature of the rights within H.57, partially because it lacks specifics regarding a fetus's viability in the case of a third-trimester abortion. Opposition groups believe this exclusion takes the bill too far.

The bill's proponents fight back against these objections by point-

Continued on Page 5

Green Mountain College Falls to Financial Hardship

By KENZO OKAZAKI
Staff Writer

Green Mountain College (GMC), a few miles down the road from Middlebury in Poultney, Vt., announced on Jan. 23 that it will be closing at the end of the 2018-2019 academic year.

As an institution, GMC dates back to 1833 and has offered bachelor degree programs since 1975. The college is perhaps best known for its dedication to environmental stewardship. It was named one of the top 20 "green" schools by the Princeton Review and was one of the founding members of the "EcoLeague" consortium for liberal arts colleges, a group of schools dedicated to ecologically-focused education and sustainability. Unfortunately, GMC's dedication to the environment has not been able to keep the school afloat.

"Despite our noteworthy accomplishments related to social and environmental sustainability, we have not been able to assure the econom-

"We need to remain nimble in delivering meaningful education at an affordable price."

ic sustainability of the college," said President Bob Allen in a statement on the college's website.

Seven other institutions across the country, including Vermont schools Sterling College and Marlboro College, as well as Prescott

College in Arizona, have expressed support for GMC students and are offering "teach-out" arrangements to help them finish their degrees. Through these programs, students may transfer their completed credits to their new institution without undergoing the traditional transfer process. Participating students will receive their degrees from their new institutions.

Vermont's Castleton University will not participate in the "teach-out" program, but has organized information sessions for potential transfer applicants from GMC.

"We are hoping to help as many displaced students as we can," Castleton's Dean of Advancement Jeff Weld told The Campus. "For the students who wish to remain in our area we offer a great opportunity to continue their academic pursuits while matching tuition and making the transfer process as seamless as possible."

Tuition will play an important role in the decisions of many students, and institutions poised to receive Green Mountain students have made arrangements to ensure that financial concerns will be mitigated. Sterling College has announced that it will provide equivalent financial aid packages as those that were provided by Green Mountain. Castleton University has also pledged that tuition would be equivalent to that paid in 2018-19 at Green Mountain so long as it does not fall below Castleton's in-state tuition rate.

Two other Vermont institutions, Goddard College in Plainfield and the College of St. Joseph in Rutland, are facing similar financial challenges to those of GMC. Last year the New England Commission of Higher

Education, which accredits colleges in six New England states, placed both schools on probation.

In his statement on the college's website, GMC President Allen pointed out that such economic difficulties are not unique to Green Mountain, or to Vermont as a whole. "Financial challenges are impacting liberal arts colleges throughout the country and Green Mountain College is no exception," his statement continued. "These financial challenges, the product of major changes in demographics and costs, are the driving factors behind our decision to close at the end of this academic year."

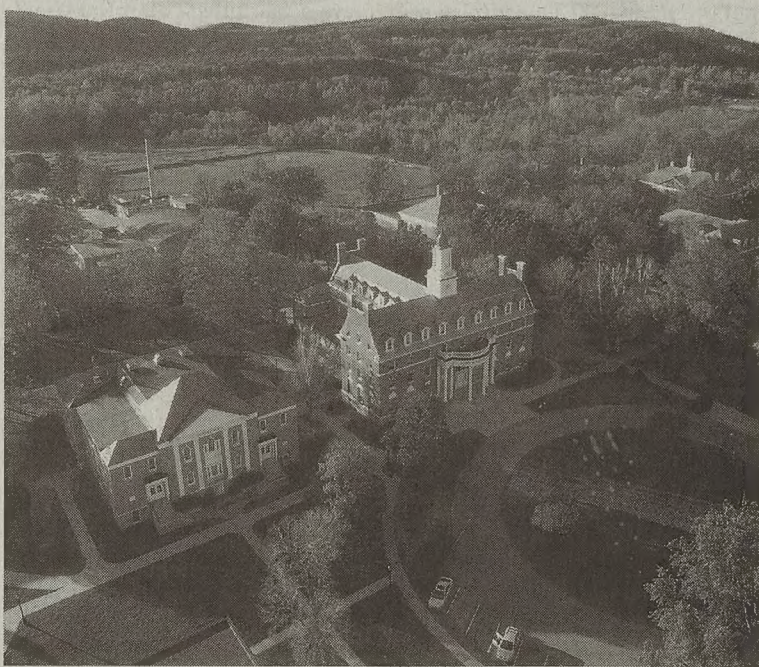
Susan Stitely, the President of the Vermont Association for Independent Colleges (VAIC), wrote an article for VTDigger regarding the troubling trend of college closures. The VAIC is a voluntary association of private colleges and universities supporting higher education in the state.

Stitely attributed closures to a decrease in the number of college-age students. "We know that the number of traditional college-age students is declining and that Vermont is not immune," Stitely said.

Castleton's Dean of Advancement Jeff Weld told The Campus that these closures are troubling for the future of higher education and that institutions must remain vigilant.

"It's very concerning when you see colleges and universities struggling to keep their doors open," Weld said. "It's a disruption in the industry and we need to remain nimble in delivering meaningful education at an affordable price."

Stitely's article also emphasized vigilance for Vermont's colleges. "As a major engine in our state's economy, our private colleges continually



GREEN MOUNTAIN COLLEGE FACEBOOK

A bird's eye view of GMC's campus, located in Poultney, Vt.

strive to restructure and reinvent themselves in a rapidly evolving higher education environment," Stitely wrote.

These closures may have significant consequences for Vermont and its economy in particular. "Regardless of what 2019 may bring, Vermont's private colleges remain one of the state's most vital economic drivers," Stitely said.

Christina Goodwin, the Dean of Advancement & Alumni Relations at Sterling College, agreed. "Colleges and universities are significant economic drivers in their communities and that higher education is one of the top reasons people move to Vermont," Goodwin told The Campus.

The closure of GMC will have an especially large economic impact on the small, rural town of Poultney, which has a population of around 3,000 people. "It is likely that a ripple effect will be felt for a long time before there is a 'new normal,'" Weld told The Campus.

Indeed, the college's impact on the community is sizable and incredibly meaningful to locals. Rebecca Cook, the director of the Poultney Public Library, reflected on the college's importance beyond its role as an economic driver.

"Green Mountain's just always been right in the middle of the town. Physically and financially and figuratively," Cook told VTDigger.

Although GMC's closure is sad news for its local community, the state and the industry, Vermont is fortunate that other institutions are present and ready to accommodate displaced students.

"Vermont's collective of higher education institutions offers Green Mountain College students the option of staying in Vermont to continue their studies, should they so choose," Goodwin told The Campus.

Middlebury spokesman Bill Burger declined to comment on the Green Mountain closure.



A look into the hydroponic greenhouse at Hartshorn's organic farm in Waitsfield, Vt.

GREEN MOUNTAIN HYDROPONICS

Green Against Gray: A Portrait of Winter Agriculture

By ARIADNE WILL
Staff Writer

Vermont's winter weather is often harsh and unpredictable, but this doesn't stop farmers throughout the state and nation from braving the conditions to produce crops year-round.

"We don't ever stop producing," said Justin Rich, owner of Burnt Rock Farm. Located in Huntington, Vt., Rich's farm primarily produces storage crops, along with a few summer varieties. "We mostly grow potatoes, winter squash, sweet potatoes and onions," Rich explained. "In the summertime, we grow some tomatoes and spinach as well."

Burnt Rock Farm, which has been operating for nine years, began producing winter varieties out of necessity as Rich's other commitments during the summer months left him with little growing time.

"When I started this farm, I was managing another farm, so I didn't have much time," Rich said. "I couldn't go to farmers' markets or start a CSA or anything, so I started growing storage crops, because I had more time in the winter."

While Rich had no time to focus on a CSA (Community Supported Agriculture), Denver farmer Yosef Camire did exactly that. After moving to the outskirts of the city to raise his family on a homestead, an over-seeded vegetable garden paved the way for his organic CSA, now the largest in El Paso County.

"We basically made a farm that was too big for us, so we sold the extras and had a small, teeny CSA with about twelve members," Camire said. "The response was

use any chemicals or pesticides or anything synthetic. All we use is stuff we can make on the farm."

Like Camire, farmer Will Stevens believes consumers are after a product that is produced locally and grown sustainably.

"It comes down to providing good-quality food for people at affordable prices," Stevens said. As the co-founder of Golden Russet Farm, Stevens, like Camire, has seen his farm expand since its conception in the early 1980s.

"We started the farm because it seemed like it was a good thing to do," Stevens said. "It seemed as if there was a need for this type of thing and we wanted to be a part of it. It was pretty serendipitous, really — we were given the opportunity to grow some vegetables on a neighbor's property and sell things at the Burlington Farmers' Market, and it just grew from there."

Though Golden Russet Farm does not produce winter crops, the winter months remain a busy time for Stevens and his family.

"Right now, my wife and daughter are sitting down, coming up with the plans for the cut flower production," Stevens said. "That includes ordering seeds, spacing, deciding where we're going to plant things, what dates we're going to plant them, et cetera. We do a lot of work in January so we can easily implement what we're going to grow later in the year."

In addition to planning the upcoming season, Stevens allocates a portion of his winter to the business side of his farm. "We also spend a lot of time tying up the book work from the previous season, doing all the tax filings, reporting and the maintenance stuff

it's all cold weather crops," Rich explained. "Growing is way different. It's much more difficult. You have shorter days, so you have less time to work, and in the morning and afternoon you have opening and closing procedures which take an hour and a half to two hours both in the morning and in the afternoon."

Camire also commiserated with the difficulty of growing winter crops, which he does without the use of a greenhouse. "Diseases are more prominent in winter," Camire said. "You can't reseed, and if you do, you won't get anything for six months. The timing has to be perfect: the crops have to be three quarters mature by the time Nov. 15 comes around, which is the ten-hour day. Nov. 13 was our ten-hour day. You have to make sure your crops are three-quarters grown by then because they keep growing throughout the winter, but very, very slowly, and it all depends on the winter."

To add to the hostility of winter growing, Camire's refusal to use greenhouse technology has made farming during Colorado's winter months a gamble. "This year we are having a very cold winter. It's the coldest on record, so our selection really stinks," he said. "We've lost some crops."

These risks are foreign to Dave Hartshorn, co-owner of Green Mountain Harvest Hydroponics, a greenhouse situated on Hartshorn's organic farm in Waitsfield, Vt. "In the hydroponic, we have a protected environment where we can grow anything we want in the winters of Vermont," Hartshorn said.

Hartshorn realizes that the greenhouse is particularly helpful in a place with rapid weather fluctuation. "Last week, we were fifteen below, yesterday we were fifty above, and tomorrow we'll be back below zero. In the summer we are in the nineties a lot," he said. "Because of recent new technologies, however, anything can be grown in Vermont because we have the ability to create any environment in the world in a greenhouse setting."

While Hartshorn's winter harvest of basil and watercress is wildly different from Stevens' off-season winters, Rich's storage crop production and Camire's homestead all four men share the lessons farming has taught them.

"From a learning perspective, agriculture has a lot to offer," Stevens said. "If you take a systems approach, you're taking a seed and putting it in the ground and nurturing it and turning it into something that's useful. That's powerful. When folks come to work here, they get a lot of life lessons from experiencing what it takes to get from a little seed to a case full of a product that is going to be enjoyed by people."

Hartshorn agreed: "Farming is everything. It's math, science, chemistry, research, social interaction with people, marketing, financial, everything you can think of that you can incorporate into one occupation."

that didn't get done during the growing season," he said.

Rich, whose growing season continues into the winter, attested to doing much of the same during winter months. "I spend all my time at my desk in the wintertime, ordering and crop planning and bookkeeping," Rich said.

In addition to winter activities akin to Stevens', Rich keeps busy with the growth and harvest of winter crops. "In the wintertime



BURNT ROCK FARM FACEBOOK

Justin Rich, owner of Burnt Rock Farm, rests against produce crates.

overwhelming: the right place at the right time. So we doubled the year after that, and the year after that we doubled again and now we've doubled about four times since we've started, in 2014."

In 2019, Camire plans on harvesting around 100,000 pounds of handcrafted food.

"This year, we're going to grow around eighty different crop varieties," he said. "We don't use any tractors, we don't till and we don't

H.57 to Safeguard Vermonters' Right to Choose

Continued from Page 4

ing to the fact that in Vermont, a state that comprises merely 0.2 percent of the United States' abortions, far fewer than one percent of these procedures are completed within the third trimester, and they are often necessary for the safety of the mother.

Many agree that abortion rights are a complicated topic and not a black-and-white issue that should be either granted in entirety or restricted completely. "There are a lot of gray areas which I don't think

are acknowledged," said Elise Park '21. "But restricting abortion rights doesn't stop abortion. It just makes it less safe and puts women in danger."

These gray areas are exactly what's stopping Governor Phil Scott, a self-described "pro-choice Republican," from taking a firm stance on the bill. Although he originally said that he would likely support it, Scott has since expressed uncertainty thanks to pushback from Republican colleagues on some of the bill's provisions.

Nonetheless, H.57 easily passed

in the House Committee on Human Services in an 8-3 vote and will be taken up by the House Judiciary Committee this week. The House has held public hearings to debate its content, though its overwhelming support makes it likely to pass with a comfortable majority in the House and move to the state Senate. It is probable that its content will continue to evolve throughout the process, but Representatives Pugh and Grad have already succeeded in sending their message that a women's right to choose is non-negotiable. Now they just want to set it in stone.

Roads Taken: Vermont Poets Share Work at Town Reading

By COURTNEY CRAWFORD
Online Editor

The Celebration of Vermont Poetry & Poets came to the town of Middlebury this past weekend. At the center of the Vermont Book Shop on Main Street, a number of scattered seating options faced a small open space where six poets read from "Roads Taken: Contemporary Vermont Poetry." This anthology presents a variety of works from young, undiscovered Vermont poets all the way back to the celebrated Robert Frost. The six poets at the Middlebury reading included Karen Gottshall, Gary Margolis, Dennis Nurkse, Bianca Stone, Sydney Lea and Chard deNiord.

"Bringing together these voices has a unique bonding capability, especially when brought to the public through a reading such as this one," Serrin Kim '22 said after attending the event.

The compilation of so many diverse poems was neither quick nor easy for editors Lea and de-

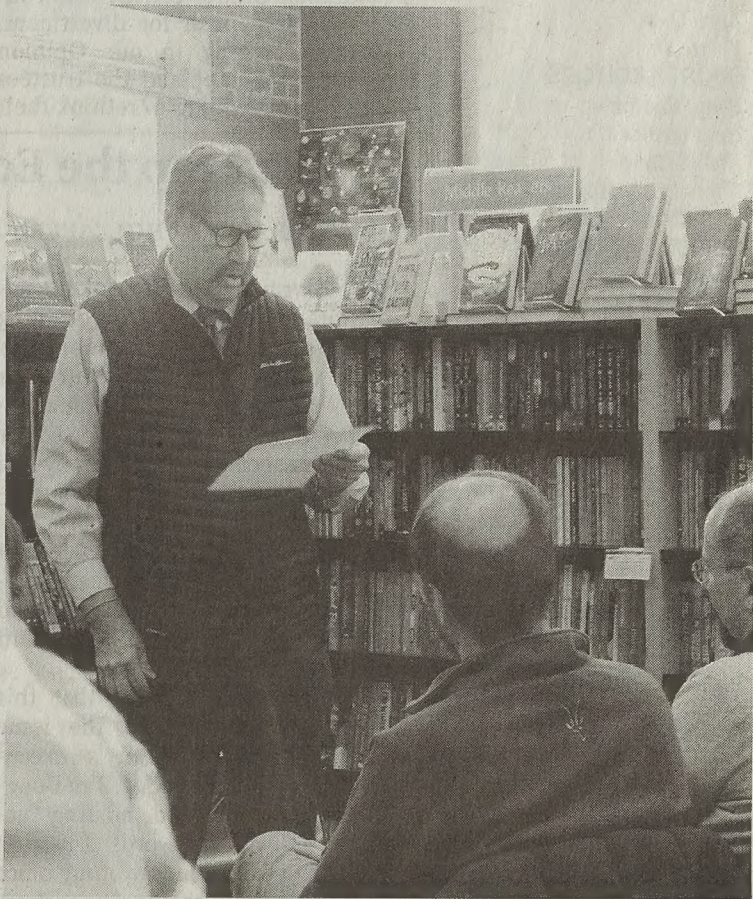
this love poem."

During the readings there was complete silence in the bookstore. A couple in one of the far corners had their eyes closed and held hands. One woman sat on the ground next to the couch, knitting while she listened.

"I noticed that those in attendance were definitely more representative of the older Middlebury population," Elaine Vidal '22 said, "I think it would have been great to also see some younger faces."

Bianca Stone, one of the younger poets included in the book, addressed this observation when talking about growing up in Middlebury. "I was surrounded by family members who were authors and poets, so it was natural for me," she said. "I don't know whether I would have become interested in poetry if it weren't for them."

Poetry seems to be an integral part of Vermont tradition, based on a section of the book's introduction that refers to poems in the volume as "claim[ing] Vermont as



COURTNEY CRAWFORD/THE MIDDLEBURY CAMPUS

Gary Margolis reads a selection of his poetry at the Vermont Book Shop.

Niord. However, the two worked well together, making the work as smooth as it could be.

"We almost always agreed and that really is a blessing," said deNiord, "It would have felt like an even longer process if we didn't."

The final product contains the work of over 80 poets and took more than two years to complete. The idea of an anthology of contemporary Vermont poetry came to deNiord while Lea held the title of the Vermont poet laureate. Lea's schedule quickly became full with readings and so she asked deNiord to hold off on the book for a bit. After a switch of roles though, deNiord, finding himself the next poet laureate, asked Lea again and off they went.

This is not the first time this anthology has been the focus of a celebratory event such as the one at the Vermont Book Shop. The poets whose work is included live all over the state of Vermont. "There are more poets per capita in Vermont than any other state," deNiord said in a Vermont Public Radio podcast. "It just made sense to want to share their work and expose people to the themes within their poems," deNiord continued.

In order for poets to qualify to have their work included in the book, there were two criteria: residence in Vermont for five years and the prior publishing of a book of poetry with a press that isn't a Vanity press. Poets were asked to submit five poems from which deNiord and Lea then picked two to include in the book.

The goal of the book and these public reading events is to create an ongoing celebration that will grow and spread throughout the state. Each of the individual public readings takes place in different parts of Vermont, and those poets published in the book who live in the area are invited to read aloud. At the Middlebury reading, the six poets present also chose poems outside of the book to share.

Advertised as a poetry reading in preparation for Valentine's Day, heart-shaped chocolates encased in pink and red wrappers could be found in a bowl to the side of the seating. In addition, some of the poems read were prefaced with this light-hearted explanation: "Because Valentine's Day is coming up, I'm going to read

their place of origin, bearing witness to the remarkably rich and ongoing legacy of the state's poetic tradition." However, Stone pointed out that there's not too much exposure to poetry, based on her experience in middle school and high school here in Middlebury. "There's definitely room for improvement," she said.

On the other hand, there is a lot of writing going on if you know how to find it; as National Poetry Month approaches this coming April, the college community and Middlebury residents will have ample opportunity to delve into poetry. David Weinstock, who was in attendance on Saturday, leads a weekly poetry workshop at the Ilsley Public Library. "We will put aside our usual round of reading and critiquing in April and feature guest poets and speakers instead, many from the college," he said.

"This event had a lot of facets that would have made it attractive to college students, especially the intimacy of hearing poems read in person by the authors themselves," Lucy Townsend '22 said. "I think that events like these should be advertised more on campus. Also, for a larger audience, it would need a bigger and more

**"I was surrounded
by family members
who were authors
and poets, so it
was natural for
me."**

comfortable venue to support more people."

Events like this have originally been catered to a small audience. So, according to Townsend, it could be important to strike a balance between creating a small and intimate environment and allowing for a bigger audience to share events like this.

Ultimately, deNiord's statement that there's "a fierce self-reliance in Vermonters and mystical love for the landscape" will hopefully continue through the creation of poetry that will be shared and celebrated throughout Vermont and in the Middlebury community.

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Divestment Makes Us Proud

By THE EDITORIAL BOARD

On Jan. 29, Middlebury announced it will begin divesting from fossil fuels over a fifteen year period through the Energy2028 initiative. As a board of students, we are excited and incredibly proud of the collaborative work between student activists, Middlebury administrators, staff, faculty and the Board of Trustees, who unanimously agreed to the proposal. We share in our community's excitement that our institution is living up to its reputation as an environmental leader.

Student activism surrounding divestment has persisted through multiple presidents and has been passed down through generations of students. A 2012 article written by Scholar in Residence Bill McKibben for Rolling Stone brought the issue into public focus. In 2013, however, the Board of Trustees voted against divestment. But student activists persisted.

We are grateful to the students of the Sunday Night Environmental Group (SNEG) who continued to push for divestment, often writing in our Opinion pages. We applaud the trustees for being willing to rethink their

initial stance on divestment, and we hope that other institutions who are disinclined to divest take note that change is possible. Divestment is a complex issue, but this agreement shows that when everyone works together we can find solutions.

We were pleasantly surprised to see that Energy2028 encompasses goals larger than divestment of the 4 percent of our \$1.124 billion endowment directly invested in fossil fuels. It promises to transition to 100 percent renewable energies by 2028, to reduce consumption on campus, and to expand environmental educational opportunities. While we know that this plan won't completely eliminate the school's indirect investments in fossil fuel companies if they are included in general equity funds, we are still pleased that Middlebury is using a broader definition than most for what constitutes a fossil fuel company in its direct investments.

We are proud of all that Middlebury has promised and recognize that there is a lot of work to be done to ensure that all of these promises come to pass. We hope that students continue to be climate activists and pass down the knowledge and importance of this agreement to the

next generation of students.

As a paper, we will continue to support student activists in holding Middlebury accountable. Through continued reporting on the history of divestment and on Energy2028 as it unfolds, we want to do our part in giving this initiative its best chance of succeeding by staying invested in its progress. We hope students will continue to write opinion pieces about their activist work.

Those who are skeptical of this announcement have every right to be. Some student activists were dismayed in 2016, when Middlebury reached carbon neutrality only by purchasing carbon offsets from its Bread Loaf campus. But we hope that Energy2028 is the next step of a truly more progressive Middlebury in all realms. We hope the college will continue to practice transparency, detailing how exactly the goals of Energy2028 will be met, and continue soliciting student opinion.

We are grateful for the leadership of Laurie Patton and the Middlebury students, professors, community members and administrators who helped make divestment a reality. We are excited to traverse this new frontier and see how Energy2028 unfolds.

Letter to the Editor: We Have Jobs, Gov. Douglas

By ARABELLA HOLZAPFEL

I write in part to thank the editors of The Campus for devoting an entire recent issue to concerns of the staff at Middlebury. As the daughter of an old newspaperman (my father reported for the Associated Press for over a quarter century and was a 'stringer' for The Wall Street Journal for a few decades), I appreciate that you chose to devote many column-inches to recognizing and valuing the contributions of staff members.

I found it ironic that this recognition followed the issue in which Middlebury's executive-in-residence, Gov. Jim Douglas, was quoted dismissing "activists" with the words "I used to look out the window of my office and see these people demonstrating for or against something, and I wondered — Don't they have a job?" He's further quoted as saying that he believes that demon-

strators "will take whatever position they're asked to."

Yes, we do have jobs. As one of many Middlebury staff members who consider ourselves local political activists, I found his statements humiliating.

More than a few Middlebury staff members use some of our CTO (CTO is combined time off, and includes earned vacation time, sick time, etc.) to travel to Montpelier to voice our opinions at the Statehouse — a place that I frequently hear referred to as "The People's House" — because we believe our elected representatives are willing to listen to us and take us seriously.

And that's not all. In order to take that CTO day, we arrange ahead with our supervisor and colleagues to make sure essential services are covered. On the day of the protest or the legislative hearing, we often get up an hour earlier than usual, drive for an hour and a half each way to get to

Montpelier, and spend an additional 30-45 minutes parking the car and taking the shuttle to the Capitol. If the event is a hearing, we may spend time beforehand crafting an oral statement. We do this because we care about our fellow citizens, our towns and the state of Vermont. I personally feel very fortunate that my employer and my position here gives me the flexibility to participate in our democracy this way.

I wonder if Gov. Douglas was reflecting on the time he looked out his window and saw protesters who opposed his veto of Vermont's marriage equality law. I reiterate: Yes, Gov. Douglas, we do have jobs. In fact, some of those protesters with jobs are now your colleagues right here on this campus.

Arabella Holzapfel is a Electronic Resources Manager and Library Systems Specialist

Letter to the Editor: Bravo to Musical Cast

By MICHAEL MCKENNA

Bravo to the entire cast and crew of Sunday in the Park with George. Having seen the production in New York and as a long-time fan of anything by Stephen Sondheim, I just wanted to say I was blown away by your wonderful performance.

Sondheim, like a Sorkin screenplay, can be tricky to perform and sometimes needs a few

views or listens to fully appreciate the details. The Middlebury students brought great life and clarity and joy to the work.

I was lucky to get a waiting list seat in the very back of the theatre and was able to enjoy how the entire audience was enthralled. You gave a gift to the community. What a wonderful way to start the new year.

Finally, from experience, whether it's a game or a season,

a great paper or thesis, a show or performance, students, if they are lucky, sometimes accomplish things they will remember and be proud of for their entire lives. Sunday in the Park has certainly earned the honor.

With great respect and thanks.

Michael McKenna is the Managing Partner of McKenna and Partners in Weybridge, Vt.

SEX PANTHER: VALENTINE'S DAY

By SEX PANTHER



Editor's Note: Feb. 14 seems an apt time to revive our Sex Panther column. Throughout the semester you'll be reading articles from Middlebury students of different identities and experiences on all things sex and relationships. If you have a topic you'd like to see written about or you'd like to write, visit go/sexpanther to get in touch with us.

A hallmark holiday that stems from the ancient Roman Lupercalia feast and the execution of its two eponymous men, Valentine's Day continues to generate massive sales among U.S. consumers. While many outwardly disown the holiday as a cliché and a gimmick, the spending trend continues to rise. Last year Americans spent nearly \$20 billion on Valentine's Day (according to the National Retail Federation), up from 2017. Hallmark began churning out valentines in 1913 (per an NPR report) and over 100 years later the Hallmark card is still a staple in the classic Valentine's Day gift along with candy, jewelry and clothing. Why do we still love spending money on Valentine's Day? I have some theories:

1) If you build it, they will come. Celebrating Valentine's Day is what you're supposed to do, it feels wrong to not do anything. Even in elementary school it felt horrible if someone else was given chocolates and a heart-shaped anything but you weren't — what does that teach us about love?

2) I'm in a glass case of emotion. Or, it may be that being vulnerable and sharing with someone you care about just what you love about them seems an all-too daunting task except on its designated day.

3) I gave her my heart and she gave me a pen. For some those words are always too scary and we prefer instead to buy gifts and hope that the message gets across.

Vulnerability in communicating your emotions is easier said than done, and I've definitely experienced that tongue-tied feeling of not knowing what to say or being scared to say what you really feel. But in challenging ourselves to be honest with ourselves and our feelings, and not just for show on Valentine's Day, we can find more fulfilling and sustaining relationships.

This isn't to say that the idea of Valentine's Day is completely horrible. Yes, it started as "a drunken revel" in ancient Rome, and perhaps that's what it has returned to, but having one day to celebrate love and its power could be awesome. What if we stopped buying into the capitalist commercialism that has overtaken Valentine's Day and instead showed our love in other ways? Whether we are in a relationship, single, or somewhere in between, Valentine's Day is a reminder to love, and not just romantically.

Making dinner with friends (using as many dining hall ingredients as possible) going to the Middlebury Discount Comedy show in Hep Zoo tonight (it's free!), sending your friends notes about how amazing they are — these are all great ways to celebrate Valentine's Day without buying into the traditional gifts we've been taught to expect. In the end, we all get to decide how and when we want to celebrate Valentine's Day, if at all. The important thing is to share moments with the people we love. And if we need a holiday to remind us of that, then so be it.

Xoxo,
Sex Panther

P.S. those movie quotes were from Field of Dreams, Anchorman and Say Anything.

From Sunrise to SNEG: Youth Campaigns Lead Climate Justice

By EMILY THOMPSON

The weekend before finals, Elise Leise '22, Leif Taranta '20.5, Connor Wertz '22, and I traveled to Washington D.C., and two of us got arrested. While on the surface, this may look like a series of self-destructive decisions, in actuality, traveling to D.C. was one of the best decisions we ever made.

The four of us went to Washington with the explicit purpose of lobbying Congress with about 1,000 other volunteers from the Sunrise Movement. Sunrise dedicates itself to the mission of drafting and passing the Green New Deal through Congress. Modeled off of FDR's New Deal, the GND will make American industries more sustainable, transition our energy supply to 100 percent renewables, and create millions of green jobs.

Most importantly, the GND confronts the "justice" component of "climate justice." By breaking up fossil fuel monopolies in addition to providing a livable wage for all workers and universal health care, the GND aims to tackle the social justice problems that facilitate the exploitation of the environment. Without this component of social justice that so many previous climate policies lacked, the GND would not confront the root of the problem: human exploitation perpetuating environmental exploitation.

Upon discovering the story of Sunrise in the news, including its successful sit-in in Nancy Pelosi's office in November, Elise, Leif, Connor, and I knew we wanted to get involved. When the opportunity to go to D.C. presented itself to us,

we soon found ourselves driving to Washington during one of the busiest weekends of fall term.

On Dec. 10, we congregated with other Sunrise volunteers in the appropriately-named Spirit of Justice Park outside of the three congressional office buildings we would be visiting. Elise, Leif, and Connor lobbied Vermont Congressman Welch with other volunteers and persuaded him to publicly endorse the Select Committee for a GND.

I collaborated with citizens of greater Reading and Philadelphia to lobby a representative from my home state, Pennsylvania. Unfortunately, Rep. Matt Cartwright (PA-08) has yet to publicly endorse the Select Committee for a GND, but as the legislation makes its way to the House floor, I have hope that this will soon change.

After we lobbied 50 separate congresspeople, we combined to perform demonstrations in the offices of three high-profile representatives: Nancy Pelosi, Jim McGovern, and Steny Hoyer. Pelosi was a particularly important target, as the ability to create a Select Committee rests on the Speaker's shoulders. Since December, Pelosi has established a powerless committee unable to create or pass legislation, but we have hope that this too will change.

On the other hand, McGovern listened to the Sunrise volunteers and publicly endorsed the committee. Now, over 43 congresspeople and congresspeople-elect have publicly supported the Select Committee for a GND, and over 300 public officials have endorsed the Committee.

Many volunteers, however, wanted to do more. Risking arrest

is a method of social justice demonstration that symbolically reveals how committed individuals are to specific causes. Elise and Leif were arrested, though never convicted, of unaccommodating (civil disobedience). Singing and chanting with other Sunrise volunteers, both Leise and Taranta sat down in Hoyer's office and refused to leave. After receiving polite warnings from officers, they were zip-tied and paraded out of the building.

While their arrest was probably terrifying for them, watching so many people take this risk inspired hope not just in me but across the country. That is what Sunrise is — a movement born out of hope for a more perfect world, not a movement born out of fear and darkness. In this movement, the Democratic Party is finally standing for something instead of against it. It is standing for people fighting with words and songs and true human connections instead of the violence and hatred that brought us here. The taste of those values was so addicting and inspiring that the four of us knew Dec. 10 was not the end.

Since then, we founded Sunrise Middlebury, a hub of the Sunrise Movement that can help mobilize individuals for regional, state and national actions. Now, in collaboration with Sunday Night Environmental Group (SNEG) and Middlebury townspeople, we are actively working to pass the Climate Solutions Resolution. This proposal would implement climate solutions in Middlebury like adding solar panels to schools and banning fossil fuel infrastructure in the town, but it would also petition the state government to stop construction of any new fossil fuel infrastructure. If reg-

istered Middlebury voters pass this proposal on March 5, we could stop the metaphorical bleeding of climate change in this state and could work towards additional future initiatives.

Such future initiatives could include the Vermont Green New Deal, a state-level version of the national proposals of Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez and Ed Markey. Statewide legislation like the Vermont GND is imperative in our current political situation where federal environmental policies often do more harm than good.

The Middlebury Climate Solutions Resolution and the Vermont GND will work hand-in-hand to make Vermont a national leader in sustainability. Sunrise Middlebury is working to make these initiatives possible, and Middlebury students can be a part of that.

We often feel helpless in the threat of climate change, as if every mile we drive in our petrol-powered vehicles and every piece of plastic we use will be the literal plastic straw that broke the camel's back, that will send the world over the edge. But being surrounded by so many hopeful environmentalists advocating for policy change that would shift the burden of sustainability from people like us to the people in power — that is uplifting, that is beautiful, and that is what a free, just, democratic America looks like. If you want to be a part of that America, come to SNEG on Sunday nights at 8:30 in the Orchard of Hillcrest and get out the vote in Middlebury on March 5.

Emily Thompson is a member of the Middlebury class of 2022.

On Heating Energy, Midd Should Take Cues from Others

By MOLLY COLWELL

Every year, as the fall gives way to winter and temperatures drop, Middlebury College kicks up the heat in the buildings on campus, especially in the residence halls. While Middlebury students are privileged to have these toasty buildings as a haven to escape the cold, they are often forced to seek further refuge — this time from the heat — once they are inside. The combination of the college overheating the dorms and students' inability to have full control over their thermostat settings leads individuals to open their windows to regulate the heat, generating a ridiculous amount of wasted energy.

Creating a comfortable indoor environment is an issue across campus, even in the newer buildings such as Ridgeline and the townhouses. Middlebury boasts carbon neutrality and claims to be "committed to environmental mindfulness and stewardship in all its activities ... giving a high priority to integrating environmental awareness and responsibility into the daily life of the institution." A college

with such environmental prowess should have no problem addressing something so simple as heating its residence halls efficiently, right? You would think so.

It seems that Middlebury sees this as a simple problem with an easy solution: post a color-coded guide online and around campus to show students how to beat the heat (and cold) of their dorm rooms.

But often, instead of following protocol, students seeking an immediate change in their rooms open the windows sometimes without adjusting their thermostats. Furthermore, students have reported that even with their thermostat on the lowest setting, they still experience overheating. So, is the problem that the "solution" (if you can even call it that) offered by the how-to guide is too simple, too dumbed down? Even if it is effective to a certain extent, is there more Middlebury can do to improve the efficiency of campus heating?

Middlebury could learn from the initiatives at Kenyon College, a small, private liberal arts college in Ohio, very similar in campus struc-

ture, student body and climate. Like Middlebury students, those at Kenyon had very limited control over the thermal settings in their rooms, causing uncomfortably warm inside temperatures. In an attempt to solve this issue, students used to leave their windows open throughout the winter. A 2012 energy audit performed in Kenyon's residence halls confirmed that this resulted in higher costs and wasted energy for the college.

To improve student comfort and increase energy efficiency, Kenyon College retrofitted six residence halls with wireless energy management technology from Magnum Energy Solutions that included smart thermostats, occupancy sensors and window sensors that automate HVAC (heating, ventilation and air conditioning) in the dorms. When students open their windows, the technology sends a wireless signal to the smart thermostat, automatically turning off the HVAC system. Additionally, when students leave their rooms, the thermostat receives a signal from the occupancy sensor and automatically sets the

HVAC to eco-savings mode. The software also allows the college's facilities team to remotely configure and control the system, while providing data on the school's energy consumption in real time. Most importantly, students have embraced the system as it saves energy and gives them more control over their own comfort.

So, Kenyon found an effective solution to this issue — great! But doesn't it sound disruptive and costly? Not so, according to Ed Neal, sustainability director at Kenyon who said, "The operation of the system is simple and straightforward, and the installation didn't impact regular operations at all." And though it can be pricey to implement — Kenyon's project cost a whopping \$7 million — over the long term, the payback in energy savings will fully offset the costs.

There are also different avenues to finance the retrofit that Middlebury could consider. One option is through an Energy Services Agreement (ESA), a pay-for-performance solution that requires no up-front capital. This means that Middlebury

would pay back the costs through energy savings realized on utility bills once the retrofit is complete. Metrus Energy, which happens to be the brainchild of a Middlebury alumnus, is one such company that could finance this type of project through a performance-based contract.

Middlebury's Thermal Comfort Policy claims to "ensure the comfort of students, faculty and staff while minimizing the environmental impact of heating and cooling systems." However, the college cannot rightly claim this while the issues of overheating the buildings and wasting energy through open windows continue. Middlebury maintains that sustainability, energy efficiency and environmental stability are integral parts of its current operations and its growth. But in order for these values to truly be pillars of the institution, Middlebury must learn to effectively control the climate within the dorms.

Molly Colwell is a member of the Middlebury class of 2020.5.

NOTES FROM THE DESK

Best Summer Ever, Right in My 'Backyard'

By JAMES FINN

This op-ed was originally published in the Addison Independent last summer during the author's internship there. The Campus is republishing it as students prepare for the upcoming summer.

As the school year creeps along, Middlebury College students expend tons of energy seeking summer jobs, internships, travel opportunities or other "substantive" ways to spend the summer months. Career interests are the main part of the equation; bustling cities like New York and Boston are oft-preferred destinations. When summer arrives students flock to these cities to pursue big-time tech, finance or PR internships; or they return to their hometowns where family, childhood friends and smaller-town summer job opportunities beckon.

Students who choose to spend their summers in Middlebury and greater Addison County are, relatively speaking, few and far between. There are many reasons for this,

but I see the main force keeping students from spending summer here as a failure on our (students') part to realize what this county has to offer. A tendency to get caught up in schoolwork, sports and our ever-important social lives can make it feel difficult to keep in touch with what's going on in our own families, much less in the towns and communities around us. Many of us also come from big cities, which might make us slow to want to explore Addison County's emptier, rural space.

As summer nears, we're left unaware of the wealth of fulfilling, stimulating and engaging pursuits that are open to us right in our proverbial Vermont backyard, and too often we hurry away before looking near by. The same thing happens after graduation.

When I was presented with the opportunity to intern at the Addy Indy this summer, the chance to write journalism every day as a summer job seemed too good to turn down. Besides, a few friends who had spent past summers here painted it as a veritable paradise between

May and August: they conjured up images of deep swimming holes, rolling green farm fields and orange sunsets that are scarce during school months. I thought I'd give it a shot.

Looking back, I can say with ease that I couldn't be happier to have spent my summer here — for more reasons than trips I've made to Bristol Falls and the Middlebury Gorge.

Working with the Addy Indy has taken me all over Addison County, and in doing so it's made me think hard about the mindset to which many (though certainly not all) Middlebury College students subscribe: the outlook that our lives in Addison County don't extend beyond College Street. This job has given me a fresh look at the complexities, struggles and triumphs of daily life in communities that we college students so often fail to see as anything more than a distant pastoral backdrop to life on the college's campus.

Writing about the anticipated struggles of Middlebury's Planned Parenthood health center in the face of Title X cuts lent human reality to the low-income Vermonters who

could be affected by the change. Covering the Great Bristol Outhouse Races gave me a look at a Vermont town's joyous, family-oriented community through the heat-soaked lens of Fourth of July fun. And attending Pantown's July 23 special town meeting (one of my favorite assignments) showed me a glimpse of how shifts in local politics can represent years of complex societal change in Addison County's small towns.

As a college student, these are stories I wouldn't have been a part of in any other way. The people I spoke to and the stories they passed on to me have become part of the fabric of my understanding of what it means to live in Addison County, which I constructed in the past purely from interactions with friends, teams, professors, clubs and leisure activities on Middlebury College's campus.

As a student at a small college in a small rural town, I frequently find myself pondering questions about communities and how we fit into them: When do we stop being residents of the college and start being residents of Middlebury and Addi-

son County? Do we have an obligation to form meaningful relationships with these communities, or is it acceptable for us to withdraw into the bubble of on-campus life for four years before departing with our degrees? Students must also be aware of our transitional status in Addison County and sensitive to the fact that our participation and perspective might not always be welcome.

I'm not fully sure of the answer to these questions and observations. But to me, it's problematic to live four years in a place without developing a connection with it beyond the one square mile in which you sleep, eat, socialize and study. I know that I don't want that to be the reality of my four years in Middlebury; working at the Addy Indy gave me the opportunity to ensure it is not.

This summer has been one of my most memorable, enjoyable and fulfilling so far. Thanks to the residents of Addison County for making it so.

News Editor James Finn is a member of the Middlebury Class of 2020.5.

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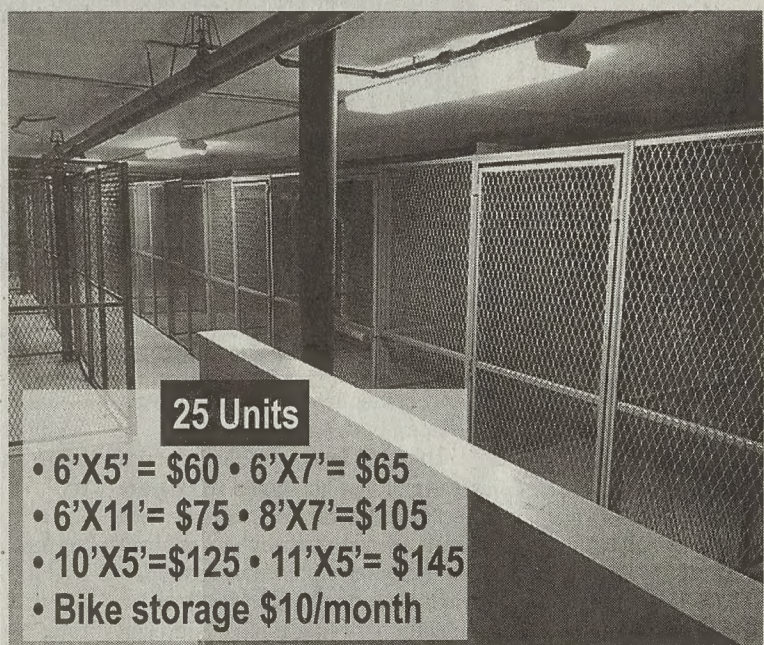


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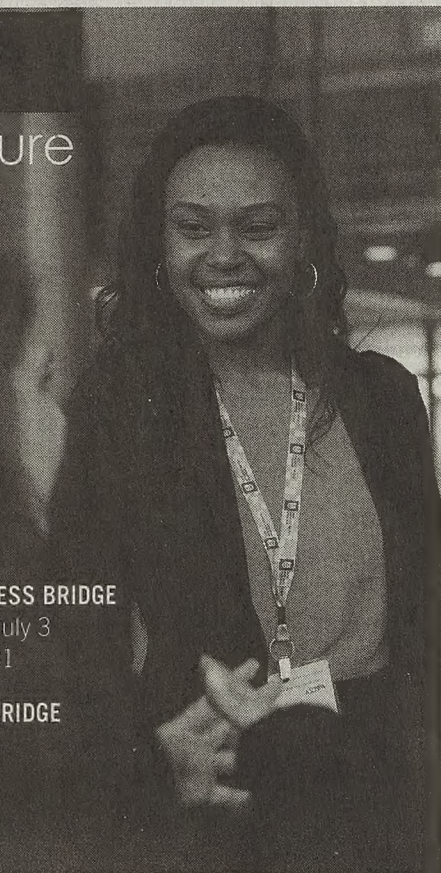
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Reel Critic: Eighth Grade

By OWEN MASON-HILL
Contributing Columnist

Bo Burnham's 2018 critical success "Eighth Grade" is a viscerally honest and authentic film about what it means to be a teenager growing up in a society where one's self esteem is based on likes and comments, on Instagram and Snapchat, on cute photos and carefully crafted appearances. "Eighth Grade" draws on the internet to guide its story and message. Rising through the pop culture masses as a top YouTube and Vine creator, Burnham understands the inner workings of youth culture in today's society.

In numerous interviews, Burnham has been noted as saying that he went to the internet for his research. He watched young teens talk in front of cameras and discuss their problems, he watched his own videos to recall how the media shaped his growth, and he noted how teens utilize and communicate on social media platforms like Snapchat and Instagram. All of this research, hours spent creating and watching videos on the internet, has allowed Burnham to represent teens in an honest way, creating the story from within the community rather than from the outside looking in.

"Eighth Grade" centers around middle-schooler Kayla Day (Elsie Fisher) as she reaches the end of eighth grade. Kayla is seen as shy, quiet and deeply introverted, often lingering on the outskirts of groups and conversations, listening deeply, but remaining silent. She smiles awkwardly when someone confronts her, and is vastly more comfortable in her room than at school or a party. Throughout the film, Kayla creates YouTube videos offering advice to her viewers, and it is through these videos that Burnham is able to uncover the themes and problems shared by her fellow classmates: By creating videos, Kayla is able to inhabit the persona she wants, rather than the one she has. She discusses major life themes such

as growth and personal identity. These videos offer the film a unique mechanism through which Burnham reveals the inner struggles and wishful thoughts with which Kayla is embattled.

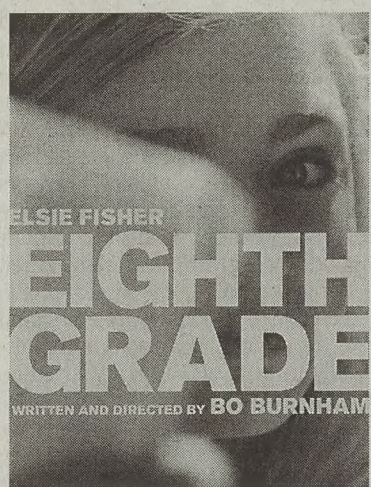
Much of the lighting, especially in Kayla's bedroom, is minimal, using the cold harsh light of Kayla's iPhone to illuminate her face, revealing the animalistic paranoia of teenagers' incessant and mindless scrolling of social media. In moments like this, when Kayla is in a fever dream, lost in the sea of feeds and facades, the film's score surges like a rush of blood to the head. Peripherals begin to fade as the camera pulls closer and closer toward the phone, beckoning Kayla and viewers alike to lose themselves in its expanse. As the score reaches one of its dramatic zeniths, it becomes impossible to see anything but the phone, to hear anything but the music that pulses through the temples.

Then, cutting through the noise and commotion, snapping Kayla out of the trance, is her father (Josh Hamilton) peeking through her bedroom door, engulfed in the warm yellow light of the hallway, bringing her back to reality with a gentle and sincere smile. And just as quickly as it began, the hypnotic nature of the phones lure fades, leaving nothing but the cold, white light of the screen revealing the pained grimace that had defined Kayla's expression.

Though the film is consistently awkward and often cringe enough to send a shiver up any viewer's spine, the difficulties are not unlike what teenagers today experience. Every mundane social situation is heightened to its most extreme, creating scenarios in which the audience begins to feel the pressures and paranoia felt by Kayla herself. Social interactions are a show, a performance, and everyone is trying to put on a good act. Kayla is constantly surrounded by a sea of individuals who see her not as she is, but as she presents herself to be. As Kay-

la states in her YouTube video about putting yourself out there, "people may not know the real you, they only know the you that you put on." So, in the face of all of this acting and falsity, it is the few individuals who are honest with Kayla, who see her as she truly is, that stand out against the white noise that is millennial society.

This film pushes us to surround ourselves with people that



A24

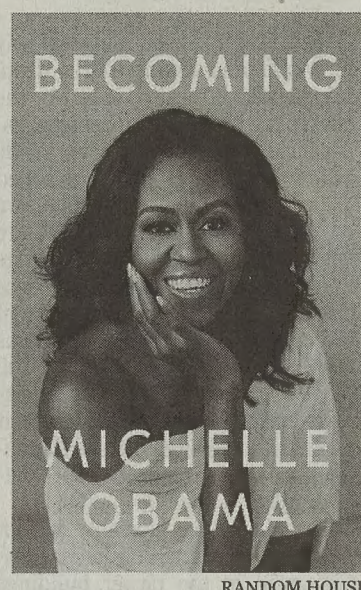
Bo Burnham's directorial debut was chosen by the National Board of Review and the American Film Institute as one of 2018's Top 10 Films.

we can be honest with, people we can be ourselves around. In a time where likes and retweets provide us with numerical values of our online self-worth, "Eighth Grade" challenges us to change, not for others, but strictly for ourselves. Self-worth is not something that can be given to us, it is something we have to give ourselves. Change and growth are necessary, but are still frightening and require courage and strength. Kayla says, accurately so, that "you can't be brave without being scared." "Eighth Grade" is a candid work of art that issues a necessary statement to the world: though we are more connected than ever, a disconnect far greater has arisen between ourselves and the people we strive to be.

The Librarian Is In

By KATRINA SPENCER
Senior Columnist

Literatures & Cultures Librarian Katrina Spencer is liaison to the Anderson Freeman Center, the Arabic Department, the Comparative Literature Program, the Gender, Sexuality & Feminist Studies (GSFS) Program, the Language Schools, the Linguistics Program and the Department of Lusio-Hispanic Studies.



RANDOM HOUSE

'Becoming,'
by Michelle Obama,
2018

"Becoming" is everything you'd expect from the former First Lady of the United States, Michelle Obama. It is a thoughtful, conscientious and well-crafted memoir that studies the first years of her life in Chicago, her arrival to undergrad at Princeton University in New Jersey, the ways she navigated her early career as a lawyer and her marriage to Barack Obama. For me, after so many news outlets reported on and promoted the book, there were very few surprises left to discover.

The "previews" I encountered gave away most of the "secrets" I would have not otherwise anticipated, for example [spoiler alert!] the fact that the couple conceived their children through in vitro fertilization.

On the other hand, it was no real surprise to me that that Mrs. Obama was deeply conflicted when Donald Trump was elected President of the United States. If there was any "surprise," I suppose it was the consistent and familiar question Mrs. Obama posed to herself over years and decades of her life, "Am I good enough?" Speaking personally, it seems to be a question many, if not all, high achievers ask ourselves over and over again. Two Ivy League degrees, in her case, did not silence that query.

All in all, readers get an even more intimate look at Mrs. Obama's personal life and upbringing. For someone who has been so open with the public over the past 15 years, there was little to begin with that was kept under wraps. I didn't know that she studied piano as a child, that her father lived with multiple sclerosis or that her guidance counselor discouraged her application to Princeton. Much of the rest, however, was already transparent and on the table.

For me, one of the book's strengths is Mrs. Obama's ability to look back and acknowledge that specific policies and advocacies, or lack thereof, shaped the environment in which she was raised. That is, the work suggests

that the South Side of Chicago, for years, if not decades, known for gun violence, is no more inherently dangerous or virtuous than any other locale in the United States.

However, the ways communities are maintained and/or neglected impact the ways they thrive or deteriorate. And the same is true of its residents, marginalized populations therein and elsewhere. I think it's easy, in our youth, to equate a place or a "type" of people with a set of behaviors or tendencies when offered no evidence to the contrary or not being provided with a context that explains the catalysts for the decay of a community. Having now sat at many a table where policies are made, Mrs. Obama intimately conveys how the power of legislation can be very far from the hands of the people it most impacts.

I'd recommend this work to people who experience regular moments of self-doubt concerning their competency, irrespective of their high and multiple achievements, as it demonstrates that there is room for insecurity and forward movement simultaneously.

I'd also recommend it to anyone who is interested in entering the world of public service, as it engages conversations about the legacies of policymaking, including commentary on how discrimination can affect families for generations.

For other works like this one, see memoirs written by politicians, including Barack Obama's "Dreams of My Father" and "The Audacity of Hope," or "What Happened" by Hillary Rodham Clinton.

FYI: While the libraries own a print copy of "Becoming," there are two holds on it.

For the audiobook found at go/overdrive/, there's a six-month wait for its availability.

Have you spoken to a librarian about using interlibrary loan? See go/ill/.

Experimental Film-Theater Thesis Entrances Audiences

By JOHN VAALER
Contributing Writer

Leo Tolstoy lacked a firm definition for his seminal work, "War and Peace."

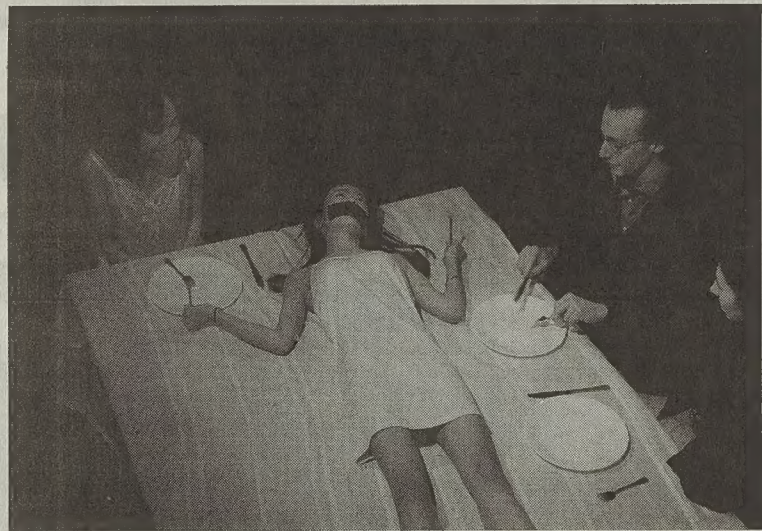
"It is not a novel, still less an epic poem, still less a historical chronicle," wrote the Russian author. "War and Peace" is what the author wanted and was able to express, in the form in which it is expressed."

Tolstoy's words aptly describe the enigmatic film-theater mash-up of "Winter's Cocoon," the senior thesis project of Sabina Jiang '18.5. The last showing of "Winter's Cocoon," which ran January 24 through 27 at the Hepburn Zoo, zigzagged fluidly through its duo medians.

The play tells the story of Ida (Yachao Dai '21), a young actress who begins a love affair with a big-shot film director, Will (Nick Jaccaci '22). Ida's dreams reveal an alter-ego: Tina (Linh Tran '22), also a young actress, who represents Ida's latent insecurities. Eventually, these vignette-reveries become more violent and unsettling, especially when it is revealed that Will is married to a femme fatale insect enthusiast, Christine (Amanda Whiteley '19). By the end of "Winter's Cocoon," the characters Ida and Tina both go from controlled victims to avenging Valkyries, wreaking comeuppance upon all who have done them wrong.

Jiang used both the screen and stage to tell a complex narrative through the relatively unexplored genre of the dream-based-May-December-romance-revenge-thriller-psycho-drama. From decorating a washing machine with Christmas lights to layering a room with used latex gloves and bloodied scissors, the director began with the macabre lever at a solid eleven, and turned it up higher and higher with every shocking twist.

"A dream is a jarring experience," Jiang said. "You are suddenly punched by someone; sud-



COURTESY PHOTO

Ida is gagged and strapped to the dinner table while her alter ego Tina responds to Will's and Christine's microaggressions over dinner.

denly someone is chasing you. At a certain point, you just give in."

This deliberate mysteriousness allowed for some scenes to become darkly comedic. For instance, two chase scenes in the play involved an imaginary fish-headed man who craves "sushi and ketchup," a delusion that might have had even Sigmund Freud drop a cigar in bewilderment.

The play's venue often transformed. At one point in the production, the audience followed the cast out of the performance space into Hepburn's basement and were also encouraged to interact with the actors.

The program even gave advice to the audience on how to fully appreciate "Cocoon." In perfect alignment with the show's eeriness, the instructions were from the protagonist's perspective: "You are all free in my dream. You can move around, watch from anywhere ... If you hear dance music, you DANCE."

Across the board, the cast was stellar. Jaccaci took dramatic risks to play a seedy and emotionally manipulative Hollywood filmmaker, leering at the camera in all the filmed scenes and snarling at the audience in the play.

Jaccaci reflected on his role that "[Will] represents the worst of the worst in the entertainment industry."

In a smaller but equally great performance, Whiteley played the Scylla to Jaccaci's Charybdis, taking on the role of his wife Christine. Striding across the stage in a Cruella de Vil-style outfit while condescending to the Asian-American protagonist with racial jabs, the role of Christine acted as a great commentary on the bigotry that still lingers in the entertainment industry today.

As the dialogue became thornier and tensions ran higher, Whiteley's Lady Macbeth-esque antagonist displayed a nefarious cool whenever on stage.

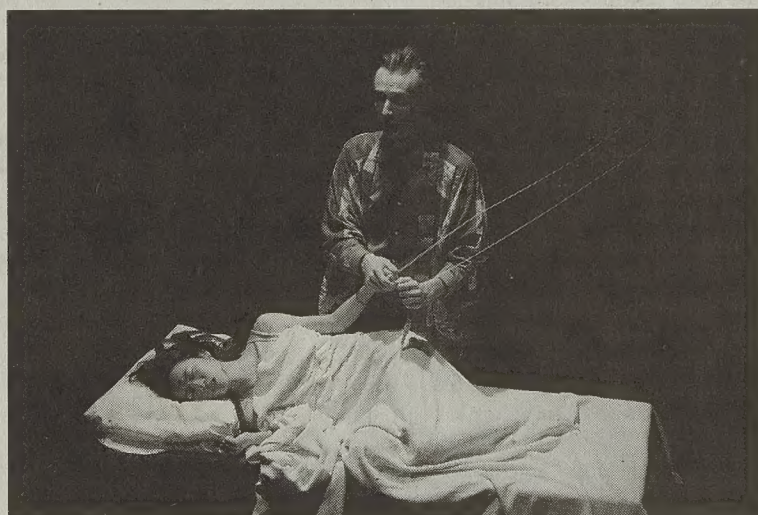
Yachao Dai powerfully portrayed the young actress, Ida. Her every look combined numerous emotions: grief and horror when her character was strapped to a dinner table and gagged, but also dominance and power in the blood-soaked third act. Ida's imaginary alter-ego, Tina, was also characterized with sensitivity by Linh Tran.

Jiang laughed when talking about the violence in her play: "Out of the plays and short films

I have done, on the prop list there is always fake blood. I do not go into filming planning this, but it's always red and there's always blood."

She said, "We are all very aware of how the violence could be misunderstood."

The actor made the distinction that several of the murders in the play were with a "finger-gun," implying a level of allegory to the violence rather than the realization of it; the play's gore was more in the spirit of "Mulholland Drive," less "Reservoir Dogs."



COURTESY PHOTO

In an unsettling scene, Will appears to play Ida like a stringed puppet.

DON'T
MISS
THIS

New Century | New Voices: Carlos Simon, "Young Lions"

Underwood Commission winner Carlos Simon presents a program of dynamic young composers of color. He also performs Thursday, Feb. 14 at 8 p.m. at FlynnSpace in Burlington as part of this series. A Department of Music event. Free.

Friday 2/15, 8 p.m., Mahaney Arts Center, Robinson Hall

Winter Carnival 2019 Ice Show: Spotlight on Broadway

The Ice Show features skaters of all ages and abilities, including college students and lots of local kids, in a fun event filled with music and costumes. The theme this year is "Spotlight on Broadway." Cheer on the beginners and be dazzled by competitive skaters.

Saturday 2/16, 4 p.m., Kenyon Arena

Hirschfeld International Film Series: Cold War

Set against the background of the Cold War in 1950s Poland, Berlin, Yugoslavia and Paris, "Cold War" is the tale of a couple separated by politics, character flaws and unfortunate twists of fate — an impossible love story in impossible times. (1h 28min). Free.

Saturday 2/16, 3 p.m. & 8 p.m., Dana Auditorium

J-term Musical Brings Color and Light to Town Hall Theater

By RILEY BOARD
Arts & Academics Editor

The life of French impressionist Georges Seurat, and that of his great-great-grandson George, served as the backdrop for a cast of 22 Middlebury College students and members of the Middlebury community to showcase their talents on the stage and behind it in the J-term musical “Sunday in the Park with George,” which ran Friday, Jan. 25 through Monday, Jan. 28.

Now in its fourteenth year, the collaborative production between college students and the Town Hall Theater put on a unique and impressive performance showcasing talented singers and actors enhanced by compelling technological elements.

Playwright James Lapine and composer Stephen Sondheim’s “Sunday in the Park with George” tells a fictionalized story of Seurat, his love interest Dot, their daughter Marie and their great-great-grandson George, an artist who works with light and video rather than canvas. The story shines a light on how a devotion to art can isolate the people who create it and depicts men deciding how much they are willing to sacrifice for their work.

“The core of the show is about finding beauty in the most ordinary things and being reminded why we create art,” said Zach Varrichione ’21, who played George.

The J-term musical had its first run in 2004, when Doug Anderson of the Town Hall Theater and Carol Christensen, an affiliate artist with the college, collaborated to allow students to perform musical theater with faculty guidance. In order to involve as many students as possible, Anderson and Christensen choose musicals with large casts and choral numbers.

The musical poses a challenge because of the limited rehearsal time frame — students began rehearsing music with Christensen at the end of the fall semester and staged the show in J-term, giving the performers, directors and stage managers only three weeks to successfully produce a full musical. The particular difficulty of Sondheim musicals made this year’s musical uniquely tricky, but they managed to accomplish it regardless.

“You’re working from the first day



Performers are staged in a tableau of Georges Seurat’s “A Sunday Afternoon on the Island of La Grande Jatte.”

COURTESY PHOTO

as hard as you can. There’s no sitting back; it requires an amazing amount of professionalism from the cast, and we’ve really seen it with this company,” Anderson said. “This is one of the most challenging musicals to do in any situation; to do it in J-term is a challenge that they really rose to.”

The J-term musical provides a unique opportunity for the town and college to come together: in fact, most members of the sold-out audiences at “Sunday in the Park” were community members, not students.

“I feel like we connect with the town through the shows,” said Ashley Fink ’19, who played the role of Dot in half of the performances.

The community responded positively when the musical was first introduced over a decade ago and has continued to show support.

“Students and audiences responded enthusiastically — it’s a great town and gown opportunity — and Doug and I have been committed to doing a musical with historical significance, or which has a strong message, ever since,” Christensen said.

“Sunday in the Park” provided a musical hurdle for the cast to overcome.

“The music is really hard, this show is so unexpected, it’s gorgeous,

but it’s really hard work and it takes a lot of diligence and practice,” said Olivia Christie ’19, who also played Dot.

Several other cast members remarked that the music was difficult to learn and required time-consuming effort to master. However, on the stage, the “disjunct melodic lines,” as Christensen put it, didn’t appear to be a challenge to the performers at all. Although the music may have been, as she also noted, difficult to hum on the way out of the theater, audiences were left instead to ponder on the themes of the show and the beautiful, skillful voices of its cast.

“[Sondheim is] a very tricky and even controversial composer because some of his music is so out there and difficult to learn,” said Will Koch ’21, who played Jules, a fellow artist and a condescending critic of Seurat’s work. “That being said, when you do learn it and really get it down, the end result is wonderful, particularly the ensemble numbers.”

This year’s J-term musical also made liberal use of technology to augment the performances, from a visual digital representation of Seurat’s dotted painting and drawing style to a massive projection of “A Sunday Afternoon on the Island of La Grande Jatte” before which the characters

stood completing the scene, to the “Chromolume” animation created by Kyle Meredith ’19.

The “Chromolume,” an art piece by great-great-grandson George, combined the principles of color from Seurat’s work with modern technology and science about color theory — the animation, Christensen mentioned that Anderson said, was “alone worth the price of admission.”

Over a decade of producing impressive musicals in an even more

impressive time span have made Douglas and Christensen spectacular curators of talented performers, evocative shows and community revelry. “Sunday in the Park” proved no different.

And their performers feel the same significance; as Koch noted, “Putting on a show of this caliber is a great feeling, and performing it in front of a sold-out house for every show is really spectacular.”



COURTESY PHOTO

Ashley Fink ’19, as Dot, reads from a grammar book in a park.

‘It Felt Like Freedom’: Celebrating Identity through Drag

By JOHN VAALER
Contributing Writer

On the brisk night of Saturday, Jan. 26, the Middlebury Queers and Allies Organization hosted the college’s first drag show of 2019 at Crossroads Cafe in the McCullough Student Center. The show, which ran from 10 to 11 p.m., offered seven performances. The crowd of about 100 students was uproarious in its support:

“To see someone in front of a room of people who they might not know perform drag and feel empowered, that was my moment. I thought, ‘I’m here, and I’m allowed to be who I am,’” audience member Hannah Deering ’22 said.

Before the show began, an organizer of the event reminded students at Crossroads to be mindful of performers’ privacy and not to film or photograph the show. “Be respectful, be a good audience,” the spokesperson said.

Then a cover of “Let Me Love You” by DJ Snake started playing. Drag was afoot.

The first performer, clad in black heels and a rainbow-colored pride ribbon, danced across the stage, giving the occasional shimmy. After five minutes, the drag artist bowed and Crossroads boomed with applause. Six more performances were received with equal warmth.

“I was so impressed with the raw emotion that was felt on stage ... I felt like every performer put their heart and soul into every performance,” spectator Lucy Townend ’22 said.

One performer could not have agreed more.

“Dressing up and going to parties and taking photos [in drag] has been a great experience ... I can express myself in ways that I normally feel [are] socially policed,” said drag artist Lee Garcia Jimenez ’19.5, whose drag name is Veronica. “Drag is really hot right now!”

The second act was “Miss Information,” who, in a blond wig and flowing pink dress, danced with chutzpah. Soon after, Christian Kummer ’22 and Regina Fontanelli ’22 performed the night’s first duet, a jumpy and energetic couplet to “Toxic” by Britney Spears.

“Doing moves that were more

raunchy or sexy really got the crowd going,” Kummer said. “I was playing up my femininity ... whatever that is.”

Kummer, a Gender, Sexuality and Feminist Studies major who tried out drag for his first time that night, highlighted drag’s importance for eroding gender stereotypes and roles: “You either dress masculine or feminine. The way you stand, how you walk ... these are so ingrained in our culture.”

His major was one of the reasons he tried drag: “[Being a Gender, Sex-

uality and

Feminist

Studies

major]

encour-

aged me

to expose

myself

to things

that have

opened up

my eyes.”

Fol-

lowing

Kummer

was the

night’s

fourth act

— a slow

and subtle

sashay to

“Mama’s

Broken

Heart” by

Miranda

Lambert. Tights were worn; eye-

brows, peeled; layers, discarded.

After a brave (and bawdy) fifth

performance, Garcia Jimenez came

out with his drag partner, whose

stage name is “Mickey D.” In a bold

move, the two artists made the sign

of the cross during a duet to Madonna’s

“Like A Woman” and Ariana

Grande’s “God Is A Woman.” After

the divine imagery, Garcia Jimenez

distributed Ritz crackers to the au-

diences, giving a drag twist to the Eu-

charist.

Garcia Jimenez explained the

Christian imagery in his act: “Grow-

ing up Catholic, a lot of people use

Christian rhetoric to villainize the

trans experience or to name it as

something immoral or unnatural,

despite the fact that transgender

identity isn’t even referred to in the

Bible and despite the fact that many

of the people who argue those things don’t even understand what being trans is.”

When asked if his performance minimized or made fun of Catholicism, Garcia Jimenez objected.

“I think people with bad opinions would find [my performance] in bad taste. I grew up Catholic, so it’s my tradition that I’m reclaiming. [I was] not being oppressive, but rather celebratory,” he said.

Alex Bacchus ’21 finished off the night with the seventh drag performance. Bacchus, who is the

social

media

chair

of Mid-

dlebury

Queers

and Al-

lies, was

impressed

with the

night’s

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“The [Mid-

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loved it.”

Bac-

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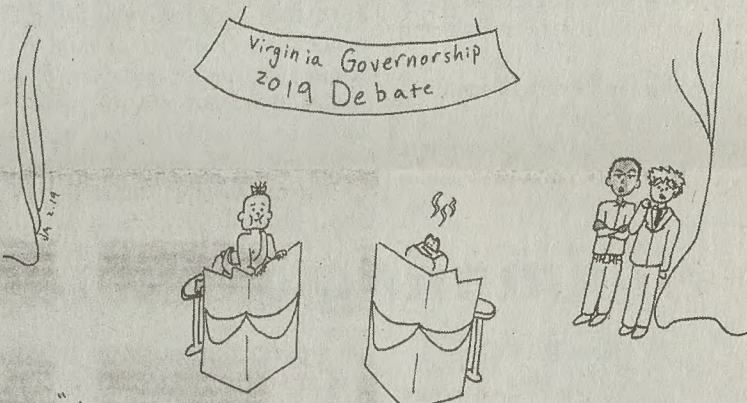
organizer

of the event, was also enthusiastic on how the the drag show could help educate non-LGBTQ+ students at Middlebury about the queer and trans tradition. “Drag should be performed by all identities, but there should be limitations on drag too,” Bacchus said.

Garcia Jimenez elaborated on this view: “If too many heterosexual and cisgender people do [drag], drag becomes indistinguishable from burlesque. That would be sad.”

The evening ended joyfully, with cheers from the audience concluding the show. As Deering left the McCullough Student Center and walked through the cold night air, she was ecstatic:

“It felt like freedom,” Deering said, beaming.



JENNY MOSS



KAITLYND COLLINS



PIA CONTRERAS



SARAH FAGAN



Captain Rachel St. Clair '19 prepares to pass.



Morgan Griffin '21 fights for the puck against Hamilton defenders.

Women's Puck Picks Up Some 'Dubs'

By BRIANNA LIPP
Staff Writer

The Middlebury women's hockey team took both games in a doubleheader against the Hamilton Continentals on Friday and Saturday, Jan. 25 and 26. The first game ended 4-1 on goals from junior Anna Zumwinkle and sophomore Madie Leidt and a pair of empty-netters by seniors Katherine Jackson and Katarina Shuchuk. Junior goalie Lin Han finished the game with nine saves. In the second game, scoring finally opened in the last minute of the second period as Hamilton slipped the puck past

sophomore goalie Anna Goldstein. The Panthers tied it up in the third as first-year Eva Hendrikson fired a slap shot into the back of the net, only for Hamilton to regain the lead 10 minutes later. Sophomore Ellie Barney then scored to tie the game at 2-2. With 35 seconds left, Jackson sealed the come-from-behind victory for Middlebury.

On Friday and Saturday, Feb. 1 and 2, Middlebury squared off against Wesleyan in another doubleheader. The first game, a 3-2 victory for the Panthers, saw a power-play goal from Barney and a pair of goals from Leidt, who

added a shorthanded tally and the game-winner for her team-leading ninth goal of the season. The second game ended 1-0 as Wesleyan picked up the program's first win against Middlebury since their initial meeting in the 1978-79 season. Senior captain Jenna Marotta skated in her 100th game, and Goldstein made 15 saves.

On Tuesday, Feb. 5, the Panthers picked up another shutout as they defeated the Norwich Cadets 3-0. Middlebury scored in each of the three periods as Shuchuk netted power-play and even-strength goals, with Jackson adding an empty-net

goal with less than a minute remaining. Goaltender Han made 34 saves in her 11th career shutout.

This past weekend saw Middlebury face off against Colby in a NESCAC back-to-back. On Friday, Feb. 8, the Panthers scored a season-high six goals. The first two came in the final minute and a half of the first period from Shuchuk and first-year Ashley McDonald, her first as a Panther. Four goals in the second period sealed the victory for Middlebury as first-years Jenna Letterie and Katie Hargrave, Marotta and Barney all scored. Barney had a four-point night as

senior alternate captain Rachael St. Clair skated in her 100th game as a Middlebury Panther. The second game ended in a 1-0 victory for the Mules. Despite a 27-23 shot advantage, Middlebury could not convert, and Sadie Kuhn's lone goal remained the difference.

Middlebury (14-4-3, 9-3-2) seeks to close out the regular season in the next few games. The eighth-ranked Panthers will square up twice against Williams, finishing up NESCAC play. They then face third-ranked Plattsburgh State on Tuesday, Feb. 19 in the final game of regular play.

Men's Hockey Backs into Familiar Slump

By JENNY LANGERMAN
Senior Writer

Men's hockey seems to have hit a rough patch in its overall impressive season. Out of the past five games, the Panthers have come up with two ties, three losses and zero wins.

Despite the feeling of familiarity these outcomes may hold for returning players, an unfortunate streak of this magnitude is some-

thing not anticipated this season for Middlebury. Throughout most of this year, the Panthers held their own with a decently balanced record — a win here, a loss there.

First-year additions to this 2018-2019 squad seemed to have made a key difference in team dynamic and synergy, both on and off the rink, as they are responsible for approximately 32 percent of the team's total goals, 21 percent of assists, and just under half of

total minutes in goal.

Injuries unfortunately slowed the first-years' fire about halfway through the season, however — losses hugely apparent in recent matchups.

"The biggest challenge in the upcoming weeks is overcoming injuries to key players. We have lost some of [our] top defensemen to injury and expect others to step up to the plate," said senior captain Kamil Tkaczuk. "We need to adopt

a next-man-up attitude and continue working towards the same goal."

While it may feel like the Panthers are crumbling toward the end, Middlebury's work this season has improved colossally from the last. In the worst-case scenario the team concludes the regular with eight wins — fully doubling its record from the previous year.

It is clear the men's hockey program is on the up and up, showing

definite promise for both the post-season and years to come.

Proud junior Owen Powers emphasized this. "We have already eclipsed what we were able to do last season. The team now has a winning culture where everyone knows they have to hold themselves and their teammates accountable to the standards we identified in the fall. I expect us to finish the year strong and compete for a championship," he said.

Swimming & Diving Splashes into Championships

By ANNA WOOD
Staff Writer

Throughout the second half of Winter Term, the swim and dive teams competed in their final meets before the NESCAC Championship. On Saturday, Jan. 26, the Panthers faced Hamilton and Williams. The following weekend, they hosted Williams and the University of Vermont at the Middlebury Invitational.

According to Kristen Karpowicz '19, the team hopes to score higher than last year at NESCACs. It previously placed seventh and is capable of placing closer to fifth this year.

"By our dual-meet results, we definitely can beat some teams that we lost to last year," Karpowicz said.

In their last dual meet, the swim and dive teams bested Ham-

ilton 222-77 on the women's side and 212-66 on the men's side. The teams lost to Williams, the women 171-122 and the men 164-110.

Audrey Hsi '22, Frances VanderMeer '20 and Grace Stimson '19 continued their successful season with wins in their individual events at the tri-meet. Hsi and Vandermeer won the 100 backstroke (1:00.96) and 50 backstroke (27.46) respectively, while Stimson claimed the 100 individual medley in 1:02.74.

Both the men's and women's 200 free relay teams beat the Ephs and Continentals to the wall. On the women's side, VanderMeer, Madie McKean '22, Courtney Gantt '22 and Erin Kelly '21 stopped the clock first in 1:39.86. The men's squad of Corey Jalbert '21, Jake Gaughan '22, Bryan Chang '22 and Brendan Leech '19 won in 1:27.56. On the

diving boards, Mike Chirico '20 triumphed in both the one-meter (267.75) and three-meter (271.75) events.

The swim and dive teams had further opportunity to get ready for NESCACs in the annual Middlebury Invitational, hosted on Friday and Saturday, Feb. 1 and 2. In this unscored meet, the Panthers captured multiple event victories over the Ephs and the Catamounts.

The women's team secured six event titles. Erin Kelly '21 was pivotal in four of them. Individually, she took both the 50 freestyle (24.83) and the 100 breaststroke (1:07.89). She also accompanied VanderMeer, McKean and Hsi in the 200 medley relay, which finished first in 1:48.16. McKean, Kelly, Audrey Kelly '21 and VanderMeer then sprinted through the 400 free relay, out-touching the

rest of the competition in 3:37.07.

Other winning efforts came from VanderMeer in the 100 backstroke (59.88) and Karpowicz in the 400 individual medley (4:38.89). Diver Olivia Rieur was runner-up in both the one-meter (381.00 points) and three-meter (396.23 points) events.

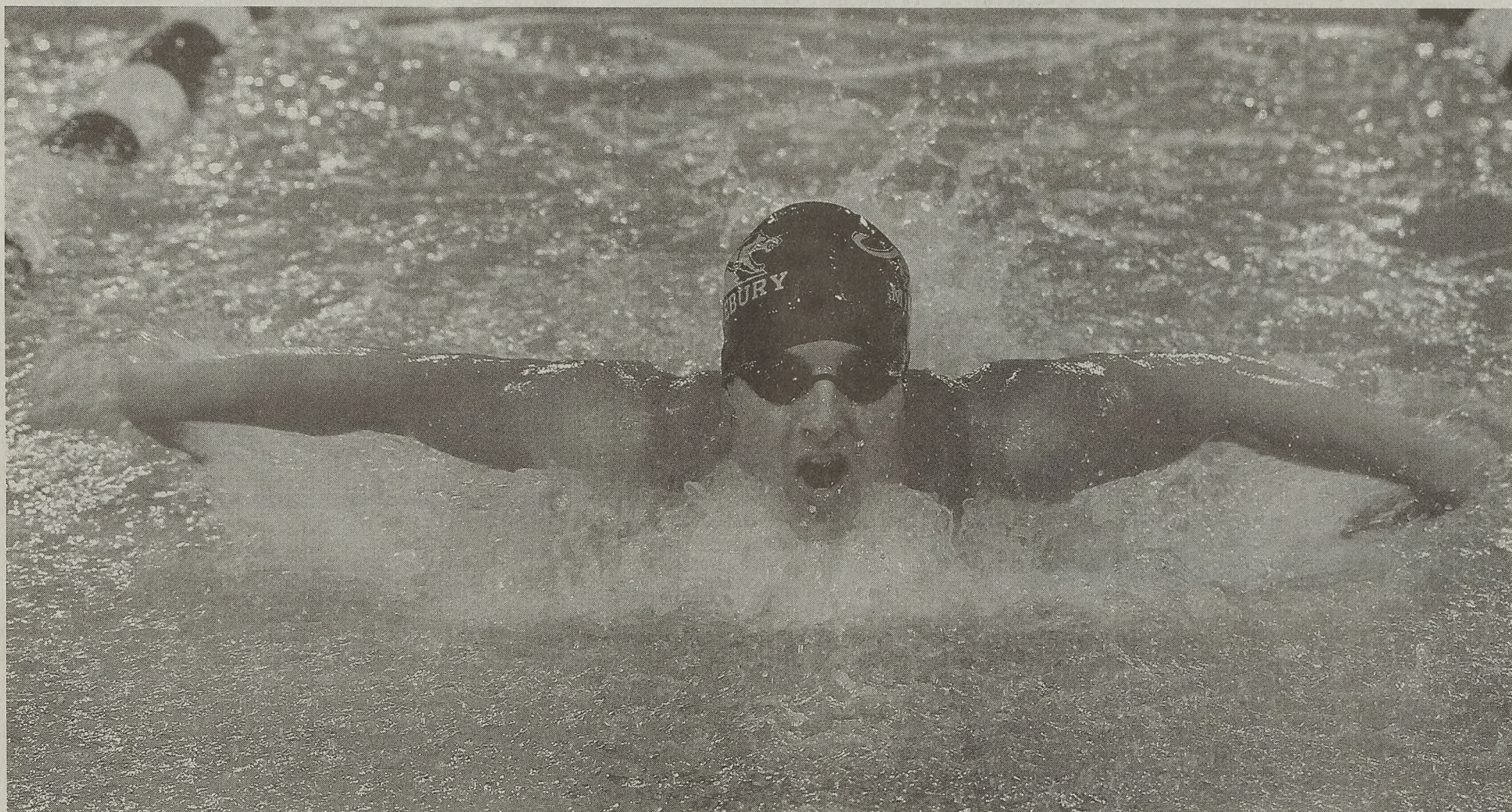
The men's team claimed the opening event: Jalbert, Leech, Chang and Will Pannos '20 finished the 200 free relay first in 1:26.35. The 400-yard medley relay of Kevin Santoro '21, Cody Kim '22, Jack Dowling '19 and Gaughan also triumphed with a time of 3:34.51.

Max Sassi '22 excelled in his individual events, winning the 50 free (22.18) and 100 free (49.21). Additional wins came from Pannos in the 200-yard individual medley (1:57.10), Morgan Matsuda '19 in the 100 breaststroke (59.95)

and Santoro in the 100 backstroke (53.31). In the diving events, Chirico again swept both boards, taking the one-meter title with 481.73 points and the three-meter win with 482.18 points.

Bolstered by these victories, the Panthers are approaching the rest of their season with confidence. Karpowicz noted, "The team is trying to keep our morale up and work together and make sure that we're getting all the little things right in the last few days of practice to fully feel rested and ready to go for the meet this weekend."

This weekend, Feb. 15-17, the women head to Wesleyan for their NESCAC Championship. Middlebury will host the NESCAC Men's Swimming & Diving Championship in the natatorium the following weekend, Feb. 22-24.



Brendan Leech '19 sprints to a finish in the 100-yard fly at the Middlebury Invitational.

COURTESY PHOTO

Men's Basketball: You Win Some, You Lose Some

By **CLAIRE MESSERSMITH**
Senior Writer

The men's basketball team sealed away its 2018-19 regular season schedule with two NESCAC conference games this past Friday and Saturday, Feb. 8 and 9. Middlebury hosted No. 8 Hamilton (5-3 in the NESCAC) on Friday night, pulling off a 80-79 win over the Continentals.

Max Bosco '21 shot a three with 2.4 seconds left in the game, propelling the Panthers to a one-point win as the buzzer sounded.

"Anything that we had to do to win and get the chance to clinch home court for [the] NESCAC tournament was big. We didn't give up, even down a few points, and coming up with a win definitely propelled us with energy into Saturday against Amherst," said Bosco.

Middlebury faced No. 19 Amherst on Saturday afternoon in Pepin Gymnasium and ultimately fell to the Mammoths 97-93. Jack Far-

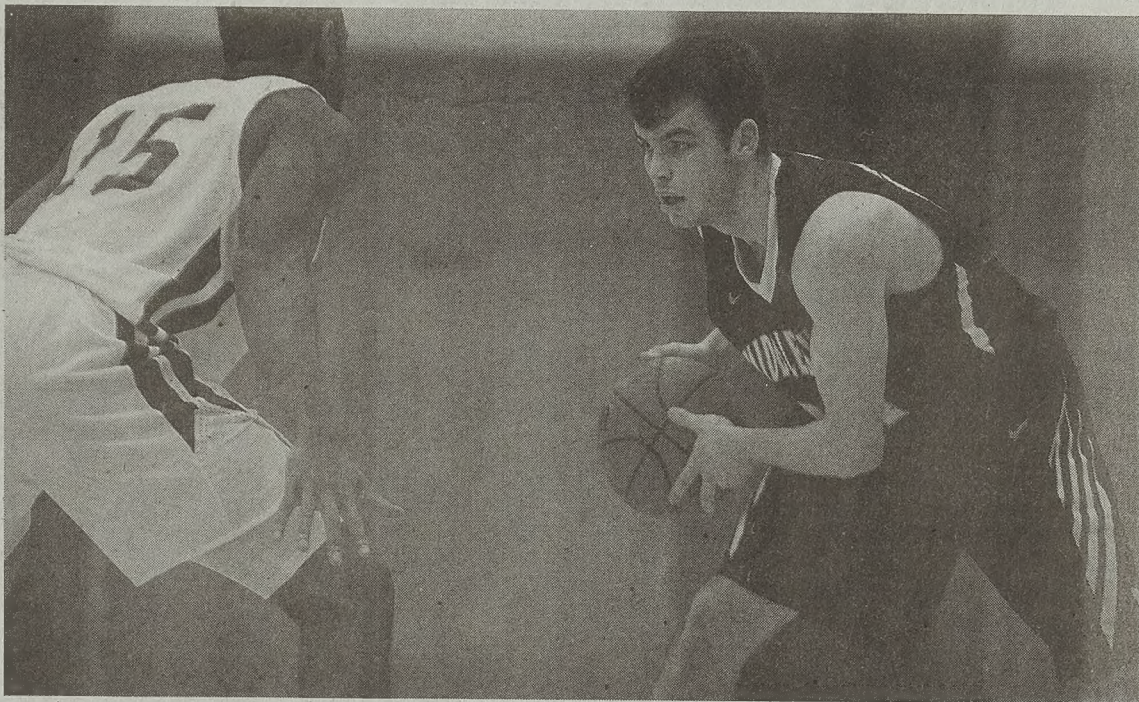
rell '21 led the Panthers in points, posting up 22, and Bosco and Eric McCord '19 each had 12. Amherst tallied the final five points for the victory.

The Panthers stand second in the NESCAC, as Amherst and Hamilton will play a makeup game on Tuesday night, Feb. 12, which will determine the final conference standings. Middlebury comes in hot to the postseason with an 18-6 record, and 7-2 in the NESCAC.

"Against both Hamilton and Amherst we played really good, team basketball," commented Bosco. "We all wanted to win for each other, which was great."

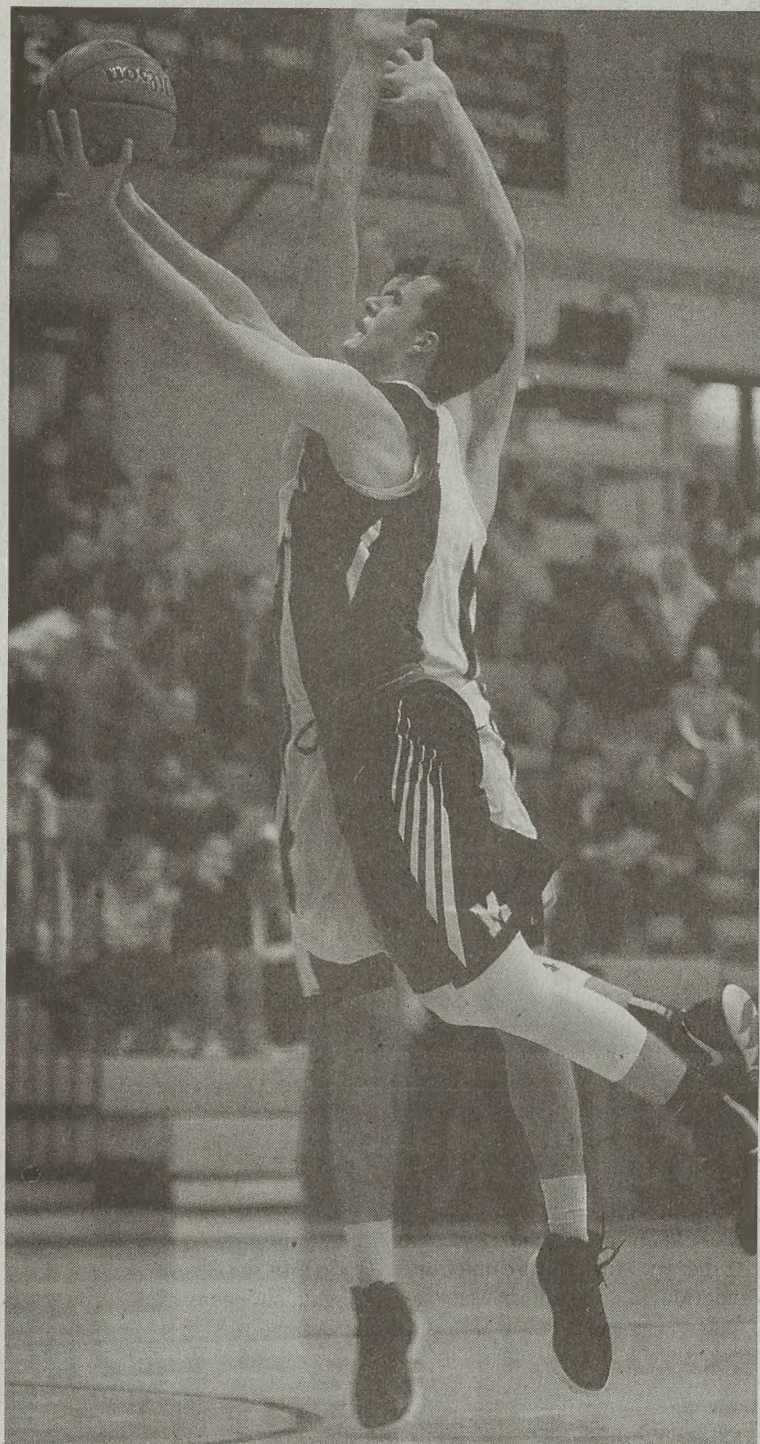
The Panthers will stay attentive to the outcome of the NESCAC game on Tuesday night, but have a focus at practice this week.

"We feel confident in how we are playing right now, but will continue to work on defensive intensity," said Bosco. "We came into both games this past weekend with a lot of energy and well-prepared."

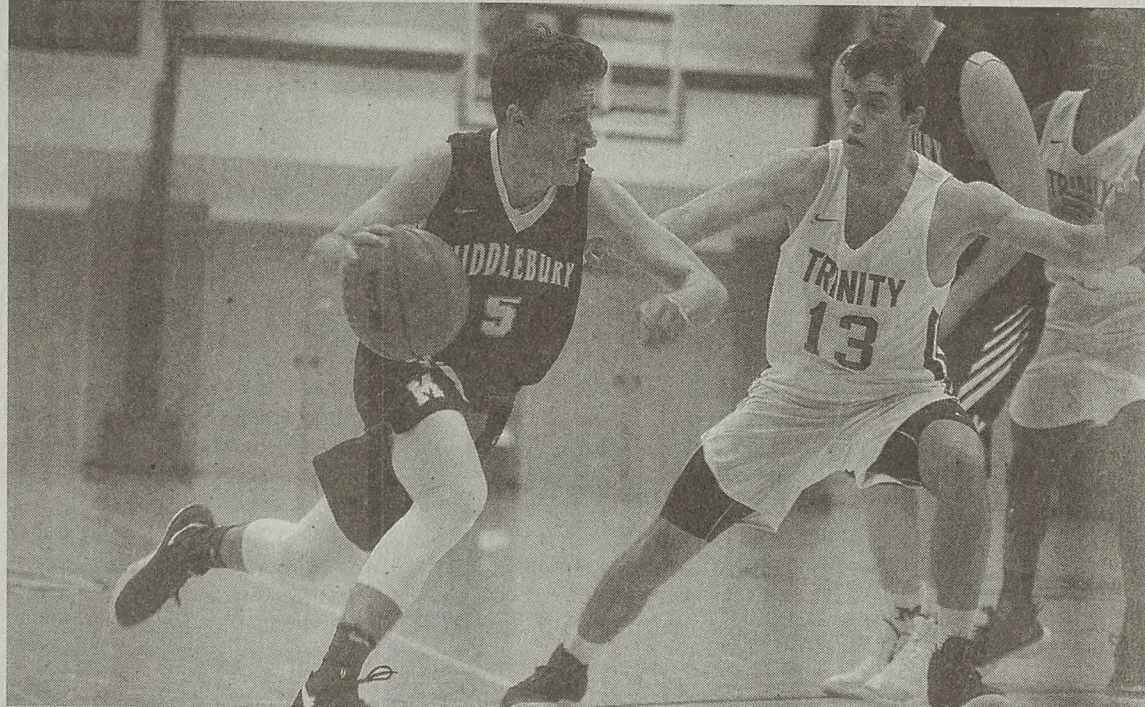


Jack Farrell '21 intimidates a Bantam defender.

MICHAEL BORENSTEIN/THE MIDDLEBURY CAMPUS



MICHAEL BORENSTEIN/THE MIDDLEBURY CAMPUS
Max Bosco '21 makes a run to the hoop.



MICHAEL BORENSTEIN/THE MIDDLEBURY CAMPUS
Max Bosco '21 flies past a Trinity defender. The Panthers won 75-38.



MICHAEL BORENSTEIN/THE MIDDLEBURY CAMPUS
Will Ingram '21 scans the court for his next move.

Panthers Sit Pretty in Third at Dartmouth Carnival

By **CECELIA SCHEUER**
Staff Writer

The Middlebury alpine ski team traded the beach for the slopes this February break as they competed in their fourth carnival race of the season this past weekend at Dartmouth's Winter Carnival.

With 703 points, the Panthers currently sit in third place at the carnival, behind their top two competitors, the University of Vermont (914 points) and Dartmouth (913 points).

Slalom races took place at the

Dartmouth Skiway on Saturday, with Friday's GS races being postponed to Sunday, Feb. 17 due to bad weather.

Sophomore Erik Arvidsson once again proved his prowess on the slopes, leading the Panthers with a two-run time of 1:37.44, good for the sixth overall spot. Sophomore Justin Alkier was next to finish for the men's side, placing 14th in 1:39.27, followed by senior Angie Duke, who earned the 18th overall spot with a time of 1:39.62. Senior Max Stamler had a promising first run, sitting in

the eighth overall spot, until he fell four gates from the finish on the second run. Regardless, Stamler's run only spoke to the team's ability to occupy the top positions at any carnival.

"Dartmouth is a particularly easy hill, which means you really have to attack," said Arvidsson. "In general, we held back a little on the first run, but everyone made nice adjustments."

On the women's slalom side, sophomore Lucia Bailey paced the Panthers with a time of 1:44.27,

placing seventh overall. Sophomore Madison Lord was the second-fastest finisher for the women, clinching the 15th spot in 1:45.70. Rounding out the women's scoreboard was senior Caroline Bartlett, who placed 19th with a two-run time of 1:46.37.

"Dartmouth Carnival is always a challenge for the circuit, and with the bad weather and broken chairlift, I think the team did a great job keeping composure," said Bailey.

The alpine ski team will return to action next weekend for a team favorite, Middlebury's own Winter

Carnival.

"We love having everybody come out to cheer us on," said Arvidsson. "We have skied on these hills so many times, and we have to take that knowledge into race day and utilize our home field advantage."

With a home-turf edge and (hopefully) permitting weather, the team turns its focus this week toward winning a day on the men's or women's side. After all, what better place to do it than at home?

Photo of the Week

SKI PATROL AND INSTRUCTORS WELCOME CLASS OF 2022.5



BENJY RENTON/THE MIDDLEBURY CAMPUS
With a host of fire-laden torches, over 40 college ski patrol and ski instructors participated in a torchlight parade at the Snow Bowl to cap off February Orientation. Welcome, Middlebury Class of 2022.5!

Men's Squash Finds a Spot on the Podium

By **ANN MARTIN SKELLY**
Staff Writer

The Middlebury men's squash team earned third place in the NESCAC Championships. Hosted by the Panthers in the Bostwick Family Squash Center, the weekend was claimed by No. 2 Trinity, who now holds a 14-2 record. Middlebury reached the semifinals by picking up a win over 24th-ranked Tufts on Saturday, Feb. 2 before returning to the courts the same day to fall to 18th-ranked Williams. The squad swept Tufts in a swift 9-0 victory with only three matches requiring more than three games. Back at it against Williams, the team suffered a close 5-4 loss. Middlebury posed wins in the second and third positions by juniors Jacob Ellen and William Cembalest, as well as in the sixth and ninth spots by first-year Teddy Best and sophomore Alex Merrill, respectively. Unlike the

match against Tufts, this battle only saw one three-game match. Both Best and Cembalest fought through their five-game matches to claim points for Midd.

The team returned to the Bostwick Family Squash Center this past Saturday, Feb. 9, to challenge 19th-ranked MIT. The first two points were won by a five-game comeback from Cembalest and then another five-game victory by Best. The Panthers then edged the Engineers further by claiming yet another two five-game wins, this time from sophomore Wyatt Hinton and junior Jacob Ellen. Sophomore John Epley clinched the match at No. 7 in a four-game win to round out the match at 5-4 and secure a 13-5 record for the Panthers.

Following this excitement, the team will travel to the CSA Team Championships hosted by Yale from Friday to Sunday, Feb. 15-17.

Nari Shakti: Women Power

FIELD HOCKEY COACHES AND ALUMS LEAD 106 YOUNG WOMEN IN JHARKHAND, INDIA, SPORTS ENVOY PROGRAM

By BENJY RENTON
Senior Sports Editor

When the U.S. Department of State was looking for a field hockey delegation to lead a sports envoy program in Jharkhand, India, there was an overwhelming need in the region for strong female role models. Through a serendipitous connection from Vice President for Student Affairs and Dean of Students Baishakhi Taylor, Middlebury field hockey head coach Katharine DeLorenzo jumped at the opportunity.

"Their greatest advocates need to be themselves," she said in an interview following the trip, drawing attention to the Middlebury delegation's role in building relationships through the program and fostering female empowerment.

From Saturday, Nov. 24 through Sunday, Dec. 2, 2018, DeLorenzo, assistant coaches Rachel Palumbo and Lauren Schweppe '18 and field hockey alums Lauren Greer '13, Alyssa DiMaio '15, Anna Kenyon '16 and Audrey Quirk '18 led a week-long field hockey residential program in Ranchi, the capital of the Indian state of Jharkhand. Working with the U.S. State Department, the Indian consulate and the India-based anti-trafficking NGO Shakti Vahini, the East India Field Hockey Project coached 106 women aged 14 to 17 from tribal regions who were at high risk for human trafficking. Considering the hardships the young women endure throughout their lives in an impoverished and sexist society, Palumbo said that field hockey was their only true outlet; the young women would often play with sticks or other materials they could find. "I almost hesitate to say that we taught field hockey," she said. "They're tireless."

Throughout daily workshops, drills, scrimmages, seminar groups



Middlebury field hockey coaches and alums high-five a group of young players before a scrimmage in Ranchi.

and time spent off the field, the delegation focused on giving the young women tools and skills they could take with them beyond the camp and pass on to their peers. "We wanted to show them that their dreams were valid and something they can attain," Schweppe said. Making a positive impact on their lives was a priority for DeLorenzo. "Those dreams were going to sit there and stay dreams until we kept this going," she said.

Coming into the program, the coaches realized that their goals for the young women were more than teaching them the skills of the game; the program also focused on creating an expanded vision for themselves of their own future. One of the strategies was to reiterate that the young women could rise up in the societal

ranks. "They absolutely matter, and they don't hear that enough," Palumbo said.

Shakti Vahini was an integral part of the planning and execution of the program, selecting individuals with the highest social standing — ones the rest of the tribe would look up to — and providing interpreters to assist the Middlebury group. Another goal of the trip was to raise awareness for human trafficking, which is at the core of Shakti Vahini's mission statement. The organization strives for a "just, free and equitable society" through its various public advocacy campaigns and programs.

"Nari Shakti," or "women power," was a phrase the Middlebury coaches used often throughout the program. Reiterating these two words (often

as a chant before beginning an activity) was a key strategy to ensure that every girl feels cared for, loved and empowered, since many of the young women did not have parents or siblings to rely on. "Everyone matters. They matter. I don't think they've ever said those words in their life," Palumbo said.

Through the drills and lessons on the field, the coaches employed strategies similar to coaching Middlebury athletes back in Vermont. "We definitely took the Middlebury way," Schweppe said. The young women's backgrounds in field hockey took the form of mostly unstructured games, as many of them have never had any formal training. "It definitely taught us the value of simplicity. We've been a team that has embraced that pretty

well," DeLorenzo added.

For DeLorenzo, her first trip to Asia enabled her and the other coaches to try to change the worldview of the athletes they coached. "These young women can develop a different perspective on how they fit into the world," she said, as tribal traditions often influenced the young women's future goals. Out of 106 young women in the program, only one said she aspired to be an engineer; the rest believed they would grow up to be policewomen (a powerful position for women in the region) or professional hockey players. Palumbo said that despite the cultural differences and language barrier, field hockey united the coaches and players. "As soon as the whistle blew, I [was] comfortable and they were comfortable too," she said.

Following the program, the Middlebury delegation went to watch the Hockey World Cup in Bhubaneswar, the capital of the Indian state of Odisha. In a Middlebury team dinner back on campus following the trip, the coaches showed their athletes the high level of competition present over the eight games they watched. "They cover the field," Palumbo said.

The Middlebury delegation hopes to continue this sports diplomacy program, and its contacts on the ground in India have started to continue connections with the young women from the camp this year. One of DeLorenzo's highlights of the program was "witnessing such a throng of people in urban India working on behalf of these young women's betterment. This was a drop-everything; no one was focused on anything else for seven days," she said.

"These girls have dreams in their hearts," Palumbo said, referring to a conversation with one of the Indian facilitators of the program. "There's so much that needs to be done."



Members of the East India Field Hockey Project pose for a picture during the week-long program.



Field hockey head coach Katharine DeLorenzo embraces a young athlete.

Indoor Track Sweeps on Home Turf

By JORDAN HOWELL
Senior Writer

Members of the Middlebury track and field team have been giving it their all during the past few weeks as they begin to prepare for upcoming championship meets. During the Middlebury Invitational on Friday, Jan. 25 and Saturday, Jan. 26, both the men and women placed first among the competition. The Panthers then had great performances during the Tufts Cup Challenge on Saturday, Feb. 2. The most recent meet was the non-scoring Fastrack National Invitational in Staten Island, New York, where the team yet again did its best

against top opponents.

Gretchen McGrath '21 stated, "I think that any time we get a chance to compete at a meet it helps us to get ready in a way that ordinary training doesn't. Even though the meet was 'non-scoring,' we all were going 100 percent during the competition, which we don't do in practice.... Meets also give us an opportunity to test ourselves and do our best under some pressure that can't be simulated in practice."

At the Fastrack National Invitational, there were several standout performances by the men. In separate 400-meter finals, Arden Coleman '20 was able to achieve eighth

place while Jimmy Martinez '19 got third. Coleman had a time of 50.47 and Martinez had a time of 48.69. In the mile finals, Jon Perlman '19 had a time of 4:13.69 and Will Meyer '20 had a time of 4:19.31. They got fourth and ninth place, respectively. In a separate mile finals, Theo Henderson '20 placed eighth with a time of 4:22.36. Minhaj Rahman '19 also continued his strong season as he placed first in the weight-throw finals with a throw of 18.63 meters.

There were also some equally great performances by the women. In the 400-meter finals, McGrath had a time of 59.83, which got her

fourth place, and Lucy Lang '19 had a time of 1:00.80, which got her ninth place. Katelyn Pease '22 came in fourth in the 800-meter finals with a time of 2:19.45. In the same race, Emily Bulczynski '22 had a time of 2:21.45, which allowed her to capture 11th place. The women were also able to get fourth in the 4x400 relay as Lang, McGrath, Julia Munz '22 and Ava O'Mara '21 led the way with a time of 4:01.83. In another strong performance, Cady Barns '22 placed first in the triple-jump finals with a jump of 10.39 meters.

The team's upcoming meet will be the Middlebury Team Challenge

on Saturday, Feb. 16. This meet will be further preparation, as the Division III New England Championships are right around the corner.

McGrath echoed this when she said, "It's our last opportunity in individual events to improve to the point where we feel confident heading into New England's the following weekend.... Relays ... give us a chance to synchronize working on handoffs and that kind of stuff. It'll be a good last meet here at home to get excited before New England's."

If the team continues on its current trajectory, it should be able to do very well during the next couple of weeks.



Abigail Nadler '19, Rory Kelly '19 and Tasha Greene '21 compete in the one-mile run.



Members of the men's indoor track and field team run in the Middlebury Invitational.